

CASE CLOSED!



名探偵
コナン

Story and art by
Gosho Aoyama

Vol. 25

CASE CLOSED

VOLUME 25



Gosho Aoyama

Table of Contents

File 1: Odd One Out?	5
File 2: The Dead Don't Speak	23
File 3: Words from the Fingertip	39
File 4: The Spider House	57
File 5: The Sight of Fear	75
File 6: Harley's Shout	91
File 7: Harley's Anger	107
File 8: Speechless	123
File 9: The Wounded Detective League	141
File 10: The Trusty Sleuths	159
File 11: One Sure Thing	177

**CASE
CLOSED**



Case Briefing:

Subject: Jimmy Kudo, a.k.a. Conan Edogawa
 Occupation: High School Student/Detective
 Special Skills: Analytical thinking and deductive reasoning, Soccer
 Equipment: Bow Tie Voice Transmitter, Super Sneakers, Homing Glasses, Stretchy Suspenders

The subject is hot on the trail of a pair of suspicious men in black when he is attacked from behind and administered a strange substance which physically transforms him into a first grader. When the subject confides in the eccentric inventor Dr. Agasa, they decide to keep the subject's true identity a secret for the safety of everyone around him. Assuming the new identity of first-grader Conan Edogawa, the subject continues to assist the police force on their most baffling cases. The only problem is that most crime-solving professionals won't take a little kid's advice!

CONFIDENTIAL

CASE CLOSED

Volume 25 • VIZ Media Edition

GOSHO AOYAMA

Translation

Tetsuichiro Miyaki

Touch-up & Lettering

Freeman Wong

Cover & Graphic Design

Andrea Rice

Editor

Shaenon K. Garrity

Editor in Chief, Books **Alvin Lu**

Editor in Chief, Magazines **Marc Weidenbaum**

VP of Publishing Licensing **Rika Inouye**

VP of Sales **Gonzalo Ferreyra**

Sr. VP of Marketing **Liza Coppola**

Publisher **Hyoe Narita**

© 1999 Gosho AOYAMA/Shogakukan Inc.

First published by Shogakukan Inc. in Japan as "Meitantei Conan."

All rights reserved.

The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

The rights of the author(s) of the work(s) in this publication to be so identified have been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

store.viz.com



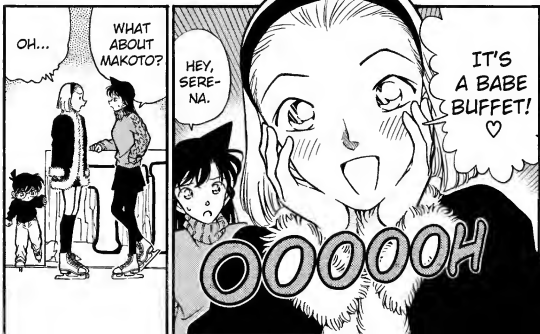
www.viz.com

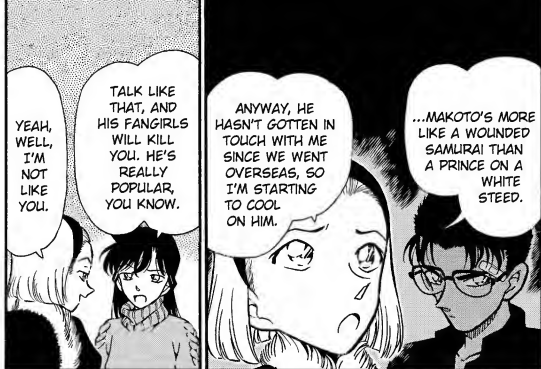
Printed in the U.S.A.
Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

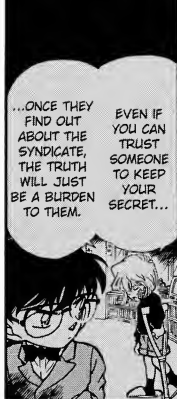
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, September 2008

FILE 1: ODD ONE OUT?



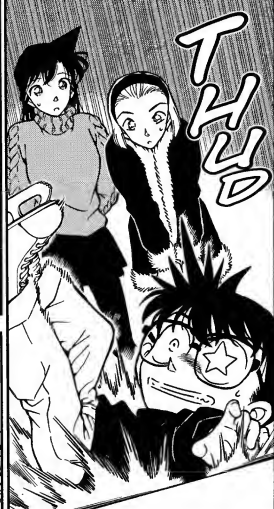






EVEN IF YOU CAN TRUST SOMEONE TO KEEP YOUR SECRET...







(CHIIHIRO ITAMI (27)
DAUGHTER OF A
CORPORATE EXECUTIVE



YASU HARU
MISAWA (29)
BANKER





YOU KNOW,
THAT SPORT
WHERE YOU
SHOOT
FLYING
DISCS
WITH A
SHOTGUN!

WHAT'S
THAT?

OOO...
YOU DO
CLAY
PIGEON
SHOOTING?



LET'S
NOT
FIGHT!

COME ON!
IT'S BEEN
AGES SINCE
THE CLAY
PIGEON
SHOOTING
CLUB HAS
MET!



AND WE HADN'T
MET SINCE THE
ACCIDENT
SIX MONTHS
AGO...

IT'S A
LOT MORE
FUN WITH
FRIENDS.

WE
DID A
ROUND
THIS
MORNING!

YORIKO
KOMATSU (30)
HOUSEWIFE



WHAT
ACCIDENT?

THE
ACCIDENT?



STOP
IT.

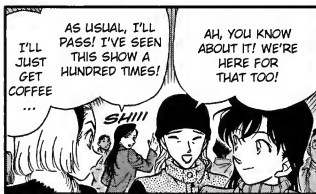


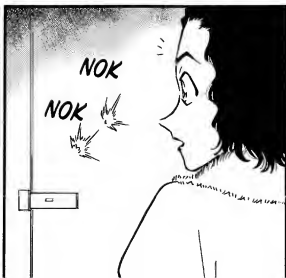
IT'S A
STRANGE
AND SCARY
STORY...

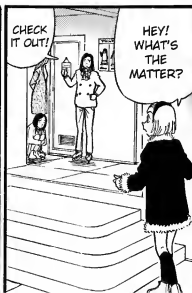
YOU WANT
TO HEAR
IT, LITTLE
BOY?













UN-
LESS
...

...PEOPLE
WILL COME
RUNNING
ONCE THEY
HEAR THE
SHOT! YOU'LL
GET CAUGHT
IN NO TIME!

A...
ANYWAY,
EVEN IF
YOU HIDE
YOUR
FACE
LIKE
THAT...

IT'S A LITTLE
LATE TO CLAIM
THE ACCIDENT
WAS *MY*
FAULT, ISN'T
IT? HA HA...

HOLD
ON A
SEC!!



UM...
EXCUSE
ME...

G
R
W
F



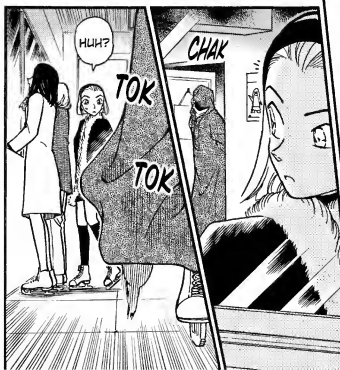
THIS IS
THE ONLY
RESTROOM
YOU CAN
ENTER WITH
SKATES
ON.

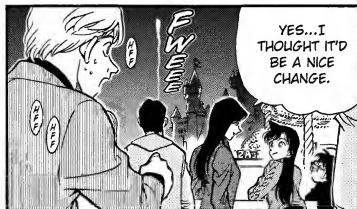
WHAT
NOW?

IS THIS
GOING
TO TAKE
LONG?

Cleaning
Restroom
Please
Wait
Tropical Land

NOK
NOK











WHAT?

AN
S?

FILE 2: THE DEAD DON'T SPEAK











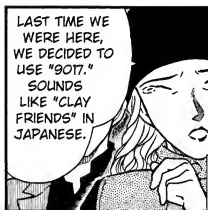
YES...
CHIHIRO
...

OTHER
GUNS?

I THOUGHT
I PUT IT IN
A LOCKER
WITH AN
ELECTRONIC
LOCK, ALONG
WITH ALL
THE OTHER
GUNS.

IT'S THE
SHOTGUN
I USE
FOR CLAY
PIGEON
SHOOTING.

IZUMI SANO (28)
OFFICE WORKER



LAST TIME WE
WERE HERE,
WE DECIDED TO
USE "9077."
SOUNDS
LIKE "CLAY
FRIENDS" IN
JAPANESE.

I DID, BUT
EVERY-
BODY
KNOWS
WHAT
IT IS.

YORIKO
KOMATSU (30)
HOUSEWIFE



YOU'LL FIND
IT ON ALL OF
US! WE CAME
HERE AFTER
SHOOTING
ALL
MORNING!

WELL, LET'S CHECK YOU
FOUR OUT. THE ONE WITH
GUNPOWDER RESIDUE
ON THEIR BODY IS
THE KILLER...

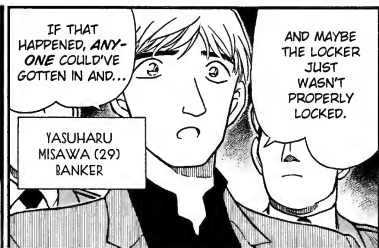


WHO ENTERED
THE PASS-
WORD
FOR THE
ELECTRONIC
LOCK?

...THESE
THREE
PEOPLE
AND I
ARE ALL
MEMBERS
OF A
SHOOTING
CLUB.



NO,
THAT
ISN'T
POSSIBLE.



IF THAT
HAPPENED,
ANY-
ONE COULD'VE
GOTTEN IN AND...

YASUHARU
MISAWA (29)
BANKER

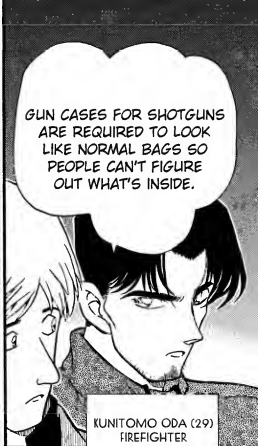
AND MAYBE
THE LOCKER
JUST
WASN'T
PROPERLY
LOCKED.



...AND HER
SHOTGUN
WAS DIS-
ASSEMBLED.

ONLY
AN
EXPERT
COULD
USE IT.

IZUMI'S
GUN
CASE
LOOKS
LIKE AN
ORDINARY
LEATHER
BAG...



GUN CASES FOR SHOTGUNS
ARE REQUIRED TO LOOK
LIKE NORMAL BAGS SO
PEOPLE CAN'T FIGURE
OUT WHAT'S INSIDE.

KUNITOMO ODA (29)
FIREFIGHTER



...AND
COULD
ASSEMBLE
IT...

I SEE...SO
THE ONLY
ONES WHO
KNEW WHERE
HER SHOT-
GUN WAS...



N-
NO
...

...WERE
YOU
FOUR,
CORRECT?



REALLY,
SERENA?

WHAT?

I SAW
THE
KILLER
COME OUT
OF THE
REST-
ROOM.



UM...
EXCUSE
ME...

YES!

ALL RIGHT. ASK AROUND
FOR ANY WITNESSES WHO
SAW A SUSPICIOUS FIGURE
AROUND THE LAVATORY AT
THE TIME OF THE CRIME!!



BUT I SAW A SUSPICIOUS PERSON IN A HOODED COAT COME OUT OF THE REST-ROOM!!

THEN THE FIREWORKS STARTED, SO I WENT TO THE WINDOW TO WATCH WITH EVERYBODY ELSE.

I KEPT KNOCKING, BUT NOBODY ANSWERED.

YEAH. THERE WAS A CLEANING SIGN HANGING ON THE DOOR.



IF THE KILLER WORE A DISGUISE AND USED THE SOUND OF THE FIREWORKS TO HIDE THE GUN-SHOT, THIS IS A PREMEDITATED CRIME!

NO...IT WAS HIDDEN BEHIND A MASK AND A SCARF.

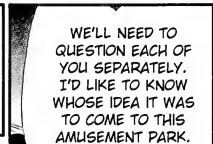
DID YOU SEE THE PERSON'S FACE?



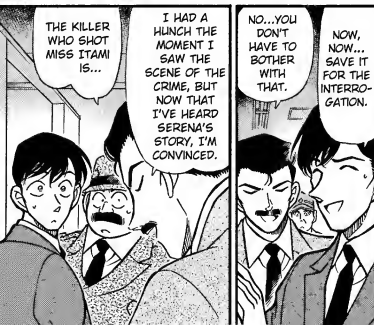
...AND WE HAD A GOOD TIME THE LAST TIME WE CAME HERE, SO...

IT'S CLOSE TO THE SHOOTING RANGE...

WE ALL DECIDED TOGETHER!



WE'LL NEED TO QUESTION EACH OF YOU SEPARATELY. I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHOSE IDEA IT WAS TO COME TO THIS AMUSEMENT PARK.



THE KILLER WHO SHOT MISS ITAMI IS...

I HAD A HUNCH THE MOMENT I SAW THE SCENE OF THE CRIME, BUT NOW THAT I'VE HEARD SERENA'S STORY, I'M CONVINCED.

NO...YOU DON'T HAVE TO BOTHER WITH THAT.

NOW, NOW... SAVE IT FOR THE INTERROGATION.



HEY!



THERE ARE
THREE POINTS
THAT MARK
YOU AS THE
KILLER.

HEY, THAT'S
NOT FUNNY!
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
AB...



IT
WAS
YOU
!!!



...MISS
IZUMI
SANO!



...WHICH
MEANS IT
WAS A
WOMAN!!

THE KILLER HUNG THE
SIGN ON THE DOOR TO
KEEP OTHER PEOPLE
AWAY, THEN WALKED
IN AFTER THE VICTIM...

FIRST,
THE CRIME
TOOK
PLACE
IN THE
LADIES'
ROOM.



THE
DECISIVE
PROOF IS
THE BLOOD-
STAIN LEFT
ON THE WALL
NEXT
TO THE
CORPSE'S
HEAD.

SO WHAT?
THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN
I'D KILL
HER!



I'VE BEEN
TOLD THE
TWO OF
YOU FOUGHT
LIKE CATS
AND DOGS.

THEN
THERE'S YOUR
RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE
VICTIM.

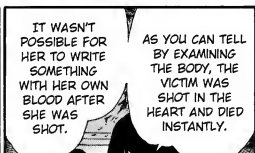
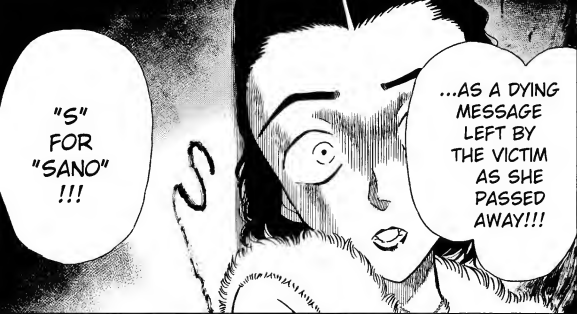


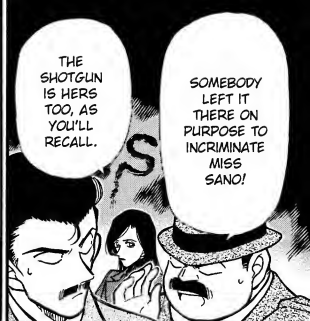
...BUT
I CAN
CLEARLY
SEE IT...



TO YOU, IT
MIGHT JUST
LOOK LIKE A
MARK LEFT
BY THE
VICTIM'S
STRUGGLES
...

BLOOD-
STAIN?







I WAS SMOKING
ON A BENCH BY THE
SKATING RINK, WITH
MY BACK TO THE FIRE-
WORKS. I'M NOT THE
KIND OF GUY WHO
GETS WORKED
UP OVER LIGHT
SHOWS AND
FLASHY STUFF.

WHERE
WERE YOU
AT THAT
TIME?

WHEN THE
FIRST FIREWORK
WENT OFF,
THOSE THREE
ALL RAN UP!
IT WAS LESS
THAN 10
SECONDS
...

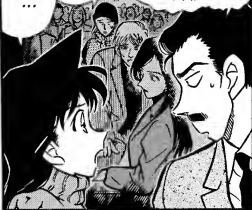
WERE THEY
REALLY THERE
FROM THE
START? IT
ONLY TAKES 30
SECONDS TO
GET FROM THE
RESTROOM TO
THE SKATING
RINK.



BUT AT
LEAST YOU
KNOW SHE
DIDN'T
LIKE THE
COLD,
HUH?

BUT WE'VE GOT
NO PROOF. AND
WE DON'T KNOW
HIS RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE VICTIM...

THE
ONLY
ONE
WITH-
OUT AN
ALIBI.



WHAT?



LOOK! SHE
HAD HER HAND
IN HER POCKET,
EVEN WHEN
SHE WAS
ABOUT TO
BE SHOT!



LET'S
SEE...

PIP



ER...
RIGHT
...

WHY DON'T
YOU PRESS
REDIAL? YOU
CAN FIND THE
LAST PERSON
SHE PHONED,
RIGHT?



BUT THERE'S NOTHING
ON THE DISPLAY. SHE
MUST'VE BEEN SHOT
BEFORE SHE COULD
CALL THE
POLICE.

A
CELL
PHONE!



IDIOT...



NO
FOOLING
AROUND,
CONAN!

NO! I JUST
WANT TO
SEE YOUR
PHONE!

YOU
DON'T
THINK
I'M THE
KILLER,
DO YOU?

EEP

HEY, THAT'S
THE SAME
KIND OF
PHONE THE
VICTIM HAD,
HUH?

WELL,
YEAH! A
WHISTLE,
AND
THEN AN
EXPLOSION
...

BY THE WAY,
SERENA,
WAS IT
REALLY
THE SOUND
OF A FIRE-
WORK YOU
HEARD?

HEY, SERENA,
IS THIS A NEW
PHONE?

ER...
YEAH
...

WHAT?



MAYBE
THERE'S
SOME-
THING IN
THAT
WEIRD
COMMENT
...

BUT
ANYBODY
COULD
HAVE
DONE IT.



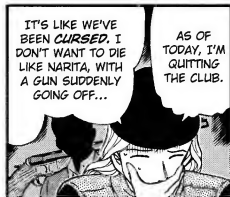
I'VE
FIGURED
OUT THE
TRICK.



YOU
WERE
LUCKY,
IZUMI.

SORRY...
IT JUST
REMINDS
ME OF THE
ACCIDENT
...

PULL
YOURSELF
TOGETHER.



IT'S LIKE WE'VE
BEEN *CURSED*. I
DON'T WANT TO DIE
LIKE NARITA, WITH
A GUN SUDDENLY
GOING OFF...

AS OF
TODAY, I'M
QUITTING
THE CLUB.



I WAS SICK
WITH A COLD,
OKAY?

IT'S
NOT
LIKE
I WAS
LUCKY.

YOU
WEREN'T
THERE
WHEN IT
HAPPENED.



I SEE...
SO
THAT'S
IT.

RIGHT
...

HEY, ENOUGH
SMALL TALK.
LET'S HEAD
BACK.





THAT'S
WHY HE'S
THE ODD
ONE
OUT!!



TWO
DARK
RED
DOTS...

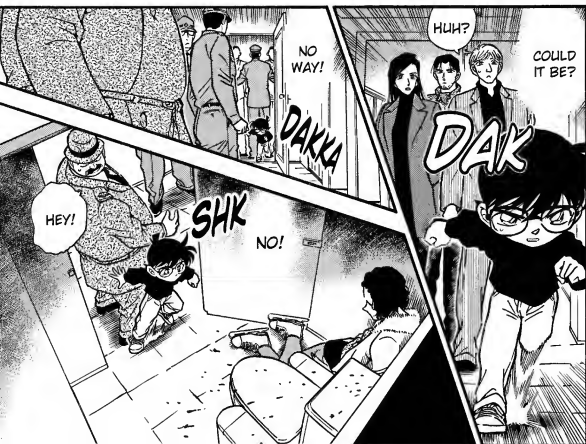


HUH?



THAT
COMMENT
ISN'T
ENOUGH
TO PIN THE
CRIME
ON ONE
PERSON...

BUT I
STILL
DON'T
HAVE
PROOF.



NO
WAY!

DAKKA

HEY!

SHK

NO!

HUH?

COULD
IT BE?

DAK



FILE 3:

WORDS FROM THE FINGERTIP





THIS IS SOLID PROOF!!

I'VE FOUND IT!!





...IN A TRASH BIN BETWEEN THE REST-ROOM AND THE SKATING RINK!

WE FOUND A COAT THAT LOOKS LIKE THE ONE THE KILLER WAS WEARING ...



INSPECTOR!

HONESTLY! THIS IS A CRIME SCENE, NOT A PLAY-GROUND!

OWW ...



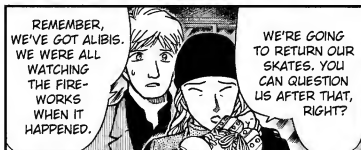
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

EXCUSE ME! OH...



YES, SIR!

GOOD. SEE IF SERENA RECOGNIZES IT!



REMEMBER, WE'VE GOT ALIBIS. WE WERE ALL WATCHING THE FIREWORKS WHEN IT HAPPENED.

WE'RE GOING TO RETURN OUR SKATES. YOU CAN QUESTION US AFTER THAT, RIGHT?



HMPH ...

OKAY, TIME FOR A TRANQUILIZER DART...



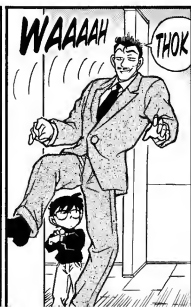
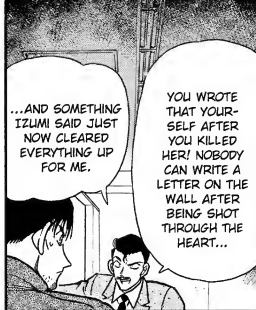
IZUMI ...

I'M SO GLAD I DECIDED TO WATCH THEM. OTHERWISE I'D BE A SUSPECT TOO.



THAT'S RIGHT... EXCEPT KUNITOMO, WHO DOESN'T LIKE FIREWORKS.





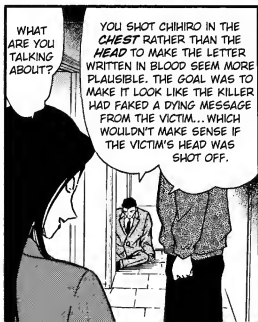


...YOU'RE
THE
REAL
MURDERER!

MISS
IZUMI
SANO
...



I...
IZUMI?



WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

YOU SHOT CHIHIRO IN THE
CHEST RATHER THAN THE
HEAD TO MAKE THE LETTER
WRITTEN IN BLOOD SEEM MORE
PLAUSIBLE. THE GOAL WAS TO
MAKE IT LOOK LIKE THE KILLER
HAD FAKED A DYING MESSAGE
FROM THE VICTIM... WHICH
WOULDN'T MAKE SENSE IF
THE VICTIM'S HEAD WAS
SHOT OFF.



IT WAS ALL A
TRICK. WE WERE
SUPPOSED TO
REASON THAT NO
KILLER WOULD
LEAVE HER OWN
GUN AND WRITE
HER OWN
INITIALS AT
THE SCENE OF
THE CRIME!

THAT'S RIGHT. YOU
USED YOUR OWN
GUN AND WROTE
YOUR OWN INITIAL
ON THE WALL
TO MISLEAD US.

SERENA
ALREADY SAID
THE KILLER
WAS STILL IN
THE RESTROOM
WHEN THE
FIREWORKS
BEGAN!

OH,
COME
ON!

THAT'S IF
THE MURDER
WAS REALLY
COMMITTED
WHEN THE
FIREWORKS
WENT UP.

CHIHIRO
WAS KILLED
WHEN THE
FIREWORKS
WENT UP!
THERE'S
NO WAY I
COULD'VE
DONE IT!

I WAS
WATCHING
THE FIRE-
WORKS WITH
RACHEL FROM
THE VERY
BEGINNING,
REMEMBER?

NBODY
WOULD
MISTAKE A
GUNSHOT
FOR A
FIREWORK
GOING
OFF.

HA HA...
DON'T
BE
SILLY!

NO...WHAT
SERENA
HEARD
WAS THE
GUNSHOT,
NOT THE
FIREWORKS.

FWEE

EEEE

WITH
THIS!

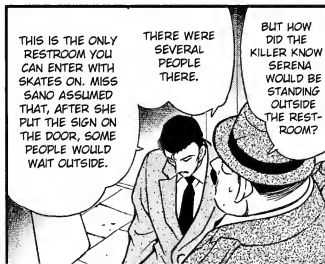
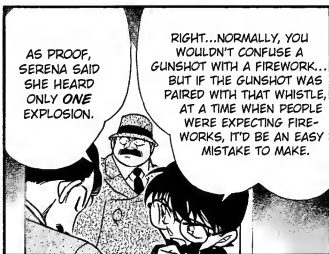
B...BUT
HOW
DID
YOU DO
THAT?

ER...
YES
...

WELL?
DIDN'T IT
SOUND
JUST
LIKE A
FIRE-
WORK?

HUH?

BOOM!

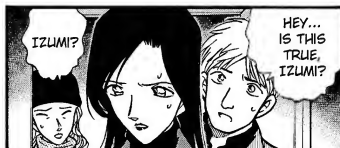




SHE STUCK THE GUN
IN CHIHIRO'S MOUTH,
WAITED UNTIL A MINUTE
OR TWO BEFORE THE
FIREWORKS SHOW,
WHISTLED THROUGH
THE FIVE-YEN COIN, SHOT
CHIHIRO AND USED
THE BLOOD TO WRITE
HER OWN INITIAL ON
THE WALL.

THEN SHE
RAN BACK
TO THE
SKATING
RINK BEFORE
THE REAL
FIREWORKS
BEGAN!

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED.
SANO ASKED CHIHIRO TO
MEET HER IN THIS RESTROOM.
SHE HUNG THE CLEANING SIGN
ON THE DOOR, LEFT TO GET
HER SHOTGUN, THEN CAME
BACK TO THE RESTROOM.



IZUMI?

HEY...
IS THIS
TRUE,
IZUMI?



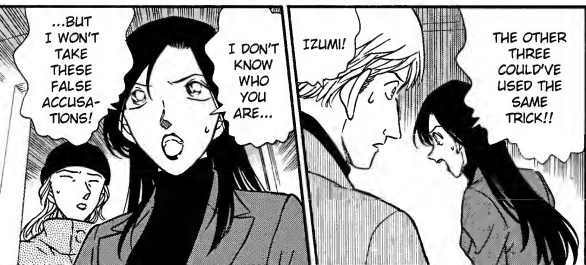
...SINCE
HE'D GONE
OFF ON
HIS OWN.

IT WAS
ALL TO
FRAME MR.
ODA, WHO
WOULDN'T
HAVE AN
ALIBI...



...BUT
WHY
ME?

I SEE...
IT GUESS I
COULD HAVE
COMMITTED
THE CRIME
THAT WAY...

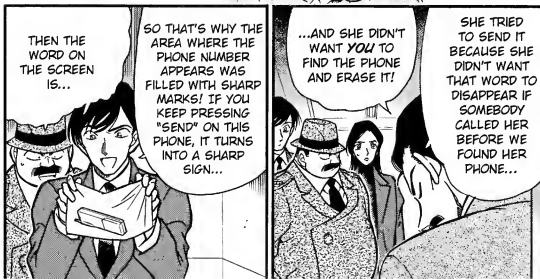


...BUT
I WON'T
TAKE
THESE
FALSE
ACCUSA-
TIONS!

I DON'T
KNOW
WHO
YOU
ARE...

IZUMI!

THE OTHER
THREE
COULD'VE
USED THE
SAME
TRICK!!





...LEFT
BY THE
VICTIM!

...THE
ACTUAL
DYING
MESSAGE
...



THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT'S THAT
GOT TO DO
WITH...

...THAT
MR. ODA
WAS THE
"ODD ONE
OUT" IN
YOUR
GROUP.



I'VE
BEEN
TOLD
THAT
CHIIHIRO
TOLD
ALL OF
YOU...

WELL, SO
WHAT?
ARE YOU
SAYING
KIX IS MY
NAME?



GET
IT
NOW?

...AND YOUR
FULL NAME IS
IZUMI SANO.

THE VICTIM IS MISS
ITAMI...THE TWO
PEOPLE BEHIND YOU
ARE MRS. KOMATSU
AND MR. MISAWA...



HIS
NAME
WAS
NARITA,
WASN'T
IT?



YOUR FRIEND
WHO DIED IN AN
ACCIDENT SIX
MONTHS AGO...

THEN
LET ME
PUT IT
THIS
WAY.







...OF
YOUR
SKATE.

...THAT
THERE ARE
TRACES OF
BLOOD
ON THE
BLADE...



I SEE...
AIR-
PORTS,
HUH?

I...
IZUMI
...



...WOULD
THINK
OF.

IT'S JUST THE
KIND OF THING
A PAMPERED
GIRL LIKE
HER, WHO
TRAVELS
THE WORLD
ON HER
PARENTS' DIME...



NARITA.



BUT...
BUT...
WHY?



IZUMI...
YOU
REALLY
KILLED
CHIIHIRO?



BUT THAT
WAS AN
ACCIDENT
...



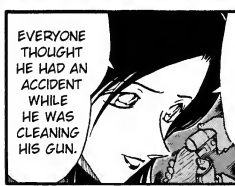
SUICIDE?



I JUST
WANTED TO
GET BACK
AT CHIIHIRO
FOR MAKING
NARITA
COMMIT
SUICIDE.



NARITA?



EVERYONE
THOUGHT
HE HAD AN
ACCIDENT
WHILE
HE WAS
CLEANING
HIS GUN.



CHIIHIRO HAD
DUMPED
HIM THAT
DAY. HE
PULLED THE
TRIGGER
HIMSELF.



WHILE I
WAS SICK IN
BED, NARITA
CALLED ME
FROM THE
SHOOTING
RANGE.



HUH?



...I COULD'VE
HANDLED IT.
BUT THEN
THERE
WAS THE
CHEATING.



IF THAT
WAS ALL
THERE
WAS TO
IT...



BUT
WHY
KILL
HER?



I TOLD HIM
SHE WASN'T
WORTH
IT, BUT
HE WAS
DEVAS-
TATED...



THAT'S
NOT
TRUE!

THAT'S RIGHT! AND HE
KNEW NARITA'S FEELINGS,
BUT HE WENT AHEAD AND
MADE FOOLS OF US
WITH CHIHIRO!

BUT ODA
WAS
GOING
OUT WITH
YOU BACK
THEN!

HE
WAS
SO
BROKEN
UP.

HE SAID,
"IT'S OVER...
WE'VE
BOTH BEEN
BETRAYED...
CHIHIRO AND
ODA ARE
SEEING EACH
OTHER...
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
IT..."



YEAH...I'M
SORRY, BUT
I WASN'T
PAYING
ATTENTION
TO
NARITA
THAT
DAY.



THEN WHY DIDN'T
YOU TELL THAT
TO NARITA? HE
SAID HE ASKED
YOU ABOUT IT,
BUT YOU
BRUSHED
HIM OFF!

IT WAS
JUST ONE
OF HER
LIES TO
MAKE
NARITA
JEALOUS.



I WAS TOO
WORRIED
ABOUT YOU
AND YOUR
ILLNESS.



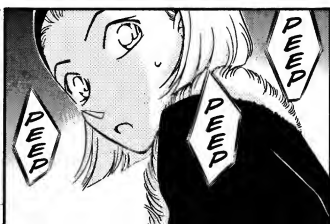
HEY
...

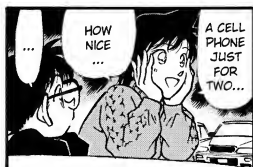


WE'LL
HEAR
THE REST
AT THE
STATION.

...

MAYBE...
YOU
SHOULD'VE
KILLED ME
INSTEAD...





FILE 4: THE SPIDER HOUSE



-TOTTORI PREFECTURE-

AW,
NUTS.

I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY PEOPLE
OR CARS FOR HOURS, AND WE
CAN'T CALL FOR HELP 'CAUSE
I FORGOT MY CELL PHONE,
AND THE MOTORCYCLE'S
OUTTA GAS...

Y'KNOW,
WE
SHOULD'VE
TAKEN A
TAXI...

...ARE
YOU
SURE
WE'RE
NOT
LOST?

HEY,
HARLEY
...

I'VE GOT THE
FEELIN' WE'VE
BEEN GOIN'
AROUND IN
CIRCLES.

AIN'T YOU THE ONE WHO
KEPT SAYIN', "I KNOW
ALL THE ROADS IN
THESE PARTS"?
HUH?

SHUT
UP!!

GRP



OUT
HERE?

WE MIGHT
HAFTA
SLEEP
UNDER
THE
STARS.

I FIGURED
I COULD
CRACK THAT
CASE, TOO,
BUT IT'S
GETTIN'
DARK
ALREADY.



YEAH, HE SENT ME
THIS WEIRD LETTER
ABOUT A CASE,
PLUS SOME MONEY.
BUT HE FORGOT TO
INCLUDE HIS PHONE
NUMBER, SO NOW
I'VE GOTTA GO
RETURN THE CASH
IN PERSON.

BUT WHAT
ARE WE
GONNA DO?
MR. TAKEDA
SAID IN HIS
LETTER THAT
HE WANTED
YOU TO GET
TO HIS PLACE
TONIGHT,
RIGHT?



IF WE WEAR
ALL THE
CLOTHES WE
BROUGHT
AND HUDDLE
TOGETHER,
WE'LL BE
OKAY FOR
A NIGHT.

NO WAY! WE'RE
IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE FOREST,
WE DON'T HAVE
TENTS OR EVEN
BLANKETS...
WHAT IF WE
CATCH A
COLD?



HUDDLE
TOGETHER?

HUH?



NOW, NOW,
WHAT'S
THIS? A
LOVERS'
QUARREL?

HEY, THAT'S
MY LINE!
I'M THE
INNOCENT
GIRL!

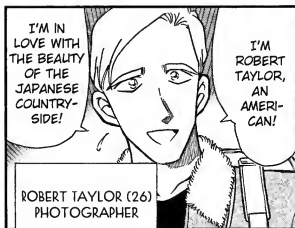
DONCHA
DARE TAKE
ADVANTAGE
OF ME
WHILE I'M
ASLEEP!



HEY,
I'M JUST
KIDDING
AROUND!

GOTCHA
...

LET'S
GET
OUTTA
HERE,
KAZUHA...



I'M IN
LOVE WITH
THE BEAUTY
OF THE
JAPANESE
COUNTRY-
SIDE!

I'M
ROBERT
TAYLOR,
AN AMER-
ICAN!

ROBERT TAYLOR (26)
PHOTOGRAPHER



HUH?

SHUKK



YES. I
WAS JUST
ON MY
WAY
TO HIS
HOUSE.

YOU
KNOW
'IM?

TAKE-
DA?



I WAS JUST SNAPPING
A FEW SHOTS. THIS
FOREST BRINGS
BACK MEMORIES.
I HAVEN'T BEEN
HERE SINCE
I VISITED MR.
TAKEDA...

HE
DOESN'T
SOUND
FOREIGN
AT ALL.

WHOA, HIS
JAPANESE
IS
PERFECT.



BUT IF YOU'RE
GOING TO MR.
TAKEDA'S
HOUSE, I'LL
JUST TAG
ALONG.

DON'T
TELL ME
YOU'RE
LOST!



NO, I TOOK A TAXI
PARTWAY. I WANTED
TO WALK AROUND
AND ENJOY THE
SCENERY, BUT I
GOT A LITTLE
CARRIED AWAY...

CAN YOU TAKE
US THERE?
YOU CAME BY
CAR, DIDN'T
YA?

HEY,
JUST
LIKE
US!





MY CLIENT IS MR. NOBUKAZU TAKEDA, THE HEAD OF THE TAKEDA FAMILY! I RECEIVED 500,000 YEN IN ADVANCE, AND TODAY...

BUT UNLIKE YOU, I GOT A FORMAL REQUEST!

YOU'RE HERE FOR THE CASE AT MR. TAKEDA'S HOUSE, TOO?

YUP.

...THE YOUNGEST BROTHER PICKED US UP!

YUZO TAKEDA (35)
THIRD SON OF THE
TAKEDA FAMILY

LET ME SEE THAT!

MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER FAMILY AROUND HERE CALLED TAKEDA...

I DON'T SEE ANY REASON TO HIRE TWO DETECTIVES...

THEN WHY'D I GET THIS LETTER?

THERE'S NO OTHER REASON I'D COME OUT TO THE BOONIES!

THAT'S US, ALL RIGHT. WE'VE BEEN HAVIN' THEM UNRULY EVENTS FOR A WHILE NOW, SO EVERYBODY 'ROUND THESE PARTS CALLS OUR PLACE...

THE SPIDER?

"IF NOT, ANOTHER LIVING PUPPET WILL BECOME A VICTIM OF THE SPIDER."

"COME TO THE TAKEDA HOUSE AT KARAKURI PASS BEFORE THE SUN SETS NEXT SATURDAY."



THEY
SAY NOT
TA GO
NEAR
IT IF YA
VALUE
YER
LIFE.

...THE
SPIDER
HOUSE
OF
KARA-
KURI
PASS.



...OF
KARA-
KURI
PASS?



THE
SPIDER
HOUSE
...

TH...



THAT'S STRANGE.
I DON'T
REMEMBER
A RUMOR
LIKE THAT
LAST TIME
I WAS
HERE.

HUH
...

DONCHA WORRY.
IT AIN'T
NOTHIN' BUT
A RUMOR.



...



HOW
IS
MISA?



YES...I'VE
COME BACK
TO THANK
HER FOR
EVERYTHING
SHE DID
FOR ME
THREE
YEARS
AGO.



OH, THE FURRINER.
I HEARD ABOUT YOU
FROM MY BIG BROTHER.
YER THE ONE MISA TOOK
CARE OF
THAT ONE
SUMMER.





HE
PROBABLY
DROPPED
BY TO
PICK UP
A SHIP-
MENT...

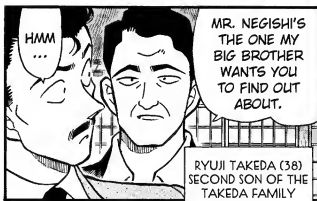
YES. MY
BROTHER-IN-LAW
MAKES PUPPETS,
AND MR. NEGISHI
WAS IN CHARGE
OF SHIPPING AND
SELLING THEM.

DID HE
COME
AROUND
HERE
OFTEN?



...WHILE
EVERYONE
WAS OUT
FOR THE
DAY.

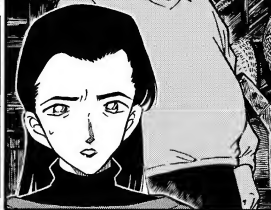
...HANGED
HIMSELF
IN THE
SHED...



HMM
...

MR. NEGISHI'S
THE ONE MY
BIG BROTHER
WANTS YOU
TO FIND OUT
ABOUT.

RYUJI TAKEDA (38)
SECOND SON OF THE
TAKEDA FAMILY



AH,
MR.
MOORE!

I CAME HOME ON
VACATION, BUT WHEN
MR. NEGISHI DIED, MY
BIG BROTHER ASKED ME
TO STAY HERE UNTIL THE
DETECTIVE SHOWED
UP. I GOT MY
COMPANY TO
EXTEND MY
LEAVE A LITTLE.



WELL,
WE
LIVE IN
TOKYO.

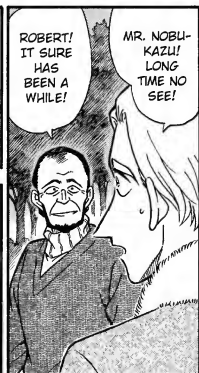
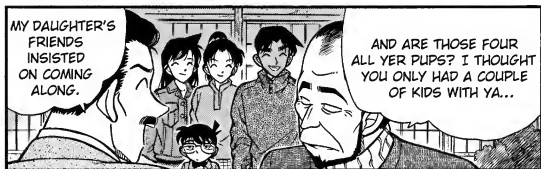
YOU TWO
DON'T
HAVE
MUCH
OF AN
ACCENT.

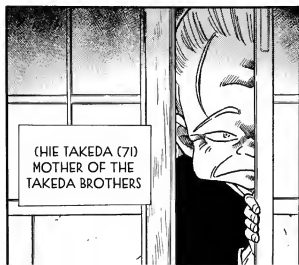


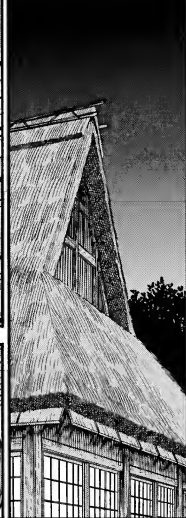
NOT
AT
ALL.

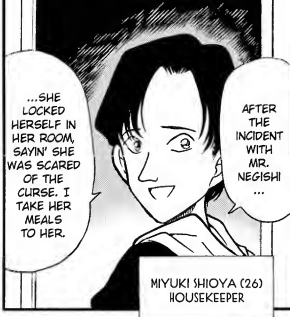
I'M NOBUKAZU
TAKEDA! SORRY
FOR DRAGGIN' YOU
OUT TO THE BACK-
WOODS LIKE THIS!

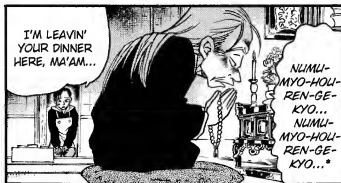
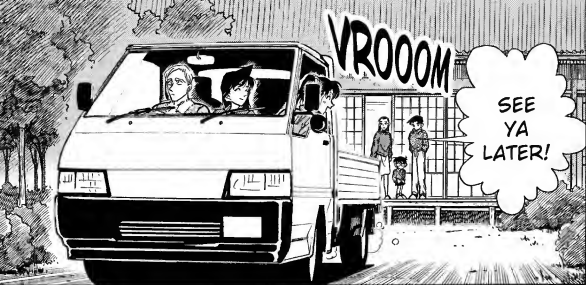
NOBUKAZU TAKEDA (45)
ELDEST SON OF THE
TAKEDA FAMILY
MASTER PUPPET MAKER

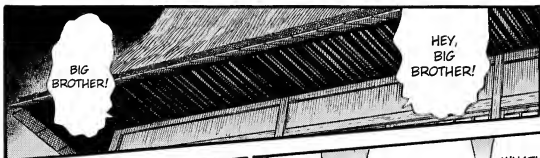
















**IT'S
THE
SPIDER
MIS-
TRESS'S
CURSE
!!!**

FILE 5: THE SIGHT OF FEAR





IT'S
THE
SPIDER
MIS-
TRESS'S
CURSE
!!!

IT'S
THE
SPIDER
...

A S...
SPIDER
...

NAH.
FORGET THE
AMBULANCE
AND CALL
THE COPS.

L...LET'S
CUT HIM
DOWN
AND
CALL AN
AMBU-
LANCE...

THE
SPIDER
MIS-
TRESS?



I'M
GUESSIN'
HE'S BEEN
DEAD FOR
ABOUT AN
HOUR.

HE'S
ALREADY
COLD.



THIS
COULD
BE A
CRIME
SCENE.

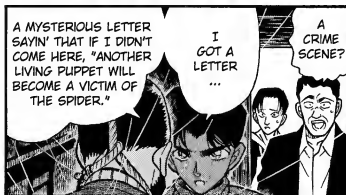
DON'T
COME
IN!

WHAT'RE
YOU TALKIN'
ABOUT?
WE'VE
GOTTA
GET HIM
DOWN.



WHAT?

WH...



A MYSTERIOUS LETTER
SAYIN' THAT IF I DIDN'T
COME HERE, "ANOTHER
LIVING PUPPET WILL
BECOME A VICTIM OF
THE SPIDER."

I
GOT A
LETTER
...

A
CRIME
SCENE?



WHO ARE
YOU?

...BUT THE
KILLER
GOT THE
BETTER
OF ME!



I WAS HOPIN'
TO PREVENT
ANOTHER
MURDER AND
CRACK THE
CASE...

"ANOTHER"
MEANS
THIS HAS
HAPPENED
BEFORE!



I'M A
PRETTY
FAMOUS
DETECTIVE
IN THE
KANSAI
AREA!

HARLEY
HART-
WELL!!



COME
HERE,
LITTLE
BOY!

HUH?

BUT HOW
COME YOU
LET THAT
CRUMB-
CRUSHER
IN THE
ROOM?



THEY SAY
THERE'S
A MIGHTY
SMART KID
DETECTIVE
DOWN IN
OSAKA...

I'VE
HEARD
OF
YOU!

YOU
ARE?



HA...

HE'S
LIKE AN
ASSISTANT...

DON'T
MIND
HIM!



THE
SURFACE
IS RUSTY,
BUT THE
PIN'S STILL
CLEAN.

LIKE IT
JUST
FELL
OUT OF
SOME-
THING.

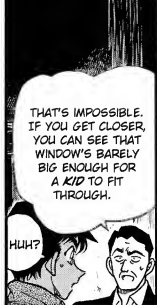
A
THUMB-
TACK?



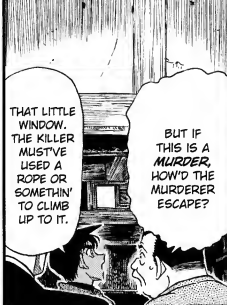
BUT
WHAT'S
IT DOING
HERE?



HUH?



HUH?



BUT IF
THIS IS A
MURDER,
HOW'D THE
MURDERER
ESCAPE?



UH...
OKAY!

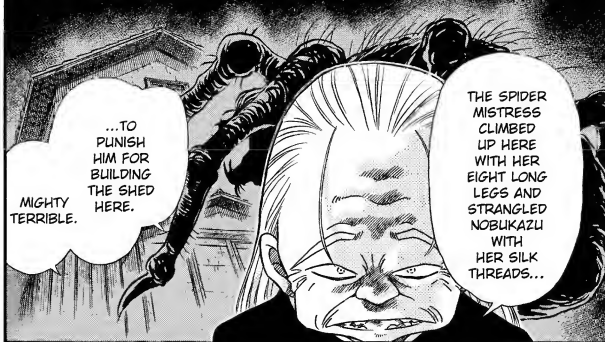


WAIT A SEC! WE HAD TO BREAK
INTO THIS ROOM 'CAUSE IT WAS
LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE,
RIGHT?

WHAT?



THEN NO
HUMAN
COULD'VE
COMMITTED
THIS CRIME.



MIGHTY
TERRIBLE.

...TO
PUNISH
HIM FOR
BUILDING
THE SHED
HERE.

THE SPIDER
MISTRESS
CLIMBED
UP HERE
WITH HER
EIGHT LONG
LEGS AND
STRANGLER
NOBUKAZU
WITH
HER SILK
THREADS...



OH...IT'S
AN OLD
FOLK TALE
IN THESE
PARTS.

WHAT'S
SHE
TALKIN'
ABOUT?

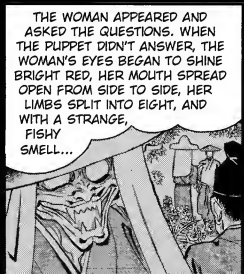


"DO YOU
BELIEVE IN
HEAVEN?"
"WHAT KIND
OF PLACE DO
YOU THINK
IT IS?" "DO
YOU WANT
GO THERE?"

A LONG TIME
AGO, A BEAUTIFUL
WOMAN LIVED IN
THIS MOUNTAIN
PASS AND ASKED
QUESTIONS
OF ALL THE
TRAVELERS
WHO CAME
BY.



YOU TOO,
DETECTIVE.
IF YOU
POKE
AROUND,
THE SPIDER
MISTRESS
IS GONNA
CURSE
YOU, TOO.



THE WOMAN APPEARED AND
ASKED THE QUESTIONS. WHEN
THE PUPPET DIDN'T ANSWER, THE
WOMAN'S EYES BEGAN TO SHINE
BRIGHT RED, HER MOUTH SPREAD
OPEN FROM SIDE TO SIDE, HER
LIMBS SPLIT INTO EIGHT, AND
WITH A STRANGE,
FISHY
SMELL...



ONE PUPPET MAKER
HEARD ABOUT THIS.
HE LEFT A KARAKURI
NINGYO, A MECHANIZED
PUPPET, ON
THE MOUNTAIN
PATH. THEN
HE HID AND
WATCHED.

TRAVELERS WERE
HYPNOTIZED BY
HER STRANGE
CHARM. WHEN
THEY ANSWERED
"YES," THEY
DISAPPEARED INTO
THE DEPTHS OF
THE FOREST.

THE PUPPET
MAKER
FOLLOWED IT
AND FOUND IT
BURNED TO
DEATH IN ITS
NEST, ALONG
WITH ITS BABY
SPIDERS.

THE SPIDER
WAS ENGLUFED
IN FLAMES.
WITH A
MONSTROUS
SCREAM, IT
SCUTTLED
INTO THE
FOREST.

SEEING THIS, THE
PUPPET MAKER
SHOT THE SPIDER
WITH FLAMING
ARROWS.

...SHE
TURNED
INTO A
HORRIFYING
SPIDER
AND
ATTACKED
THE
PUPPET.

WHERE'S
THE
CURSE
COME
IN?

THAT'S
JUST AN
OLD FAIRY
TALE!

THE VILLAGERS, FEARING
THE SPIDER'S CURSE, BUILT
A SHRINE ON THE SITE OF
THIS HOUSE. THIS PASS
WAS NAMED "KARAKURI
PASS" AFTER THE
PUPPET.

IT WAS THREE
YEARS AFTER THE
SHED WENT UP
THAT HIS DAUGHTER,
MISA, AND HIS WIFE,
KINUYO, HANGED
THEMSELVES
THERE.

... SAYING,
"IF THE
SPIDER COMES
AFTER
ME, I'LL
USE MY
PUPPETS."

YEAH...OUR
BIG BROTHER
BECAME HEAD
OF THE FAMILY
AFTER OUR
FATHER DIED.
HE BUILT THIS
SHED, EVEN
THOUGH THE
VILLAGERS
COMPLAINED...

YOU
DES-
TROYED
THE
SHRINE?

THIS SHED IS
BUILT RIGHT
WHERE THE
SPIDER'S NEST
WAS SUPPOSED
TO BE.

THREE YEARS LATER,
MR. NEGISHI DIED IN THE
SAME SHED, THIS TIME
COVERED WITH STRING.



...
COVERED
IN
COB-
WEBS.

BY THE
TIME WE
FOUND
THEM, THEY
WERE IN A
MISERABLE
STATE...



YES. HE HAD HANGED
HIMSELF, BUT HIS
ARMS AND LEGS
WERE COVERED
WITH THE
STRINGS WE
USE FOR THE
PUPPETS.

STRING?



THEY
LOOK LIKE
COBWEBS,
DON'T
THEY?



COME TO THINK OF IT, THE
GRAVE ROBERT WENT TO IS
AROUND THE PLACE WHERE
THE SPIDER MISTRESS WAS
SUPPOSED TO APPEAR AND
LURE TRAVELERS.

WHAT?



YEAH...
SOMEBODY'S
USIN' THAT
OLD STORY
TO GET
AWAY WITH
MURDER.

SO THAT'S
WHY THIS IS
THE SPIDER
HOUSE OF
KARAKURI
PASS.





CELL
PHONE?

AND KAZUHA
FORGOT HER
CELL PHONE...

...AND THE
ONLY CAR
WE'VE GOT IS
THE TRUCK
ROBERT
TOOK.

HEY...IT'S
ABOUT
SIX
MILES
AWAY...

WHERE'S
THAT
GRAVE?
TAKE US
THERE!!



HEY!

DAKKA

I GAVE
RACHEL A
CELL PHONE
LAST WEEK!



LEMME
USE YOUR
CELL
PHONE!!

HERE!



HEY,
RICH-
ARD
!!

SHUK
THEN ...

THE HOUSE
PHONE'S IN
USE...AND
THE BATTERY
ON MY CELL
RAN
OUT!

NO, THAT'S
NOT IT. MR.
NOBUKAZU
HAS
HANGED
HIMSELF...







MR.
NOBUKAZU
HUNG
HIMSELF?

GRRM
GRRM



HAVE YOU
CALLED
THE
POLICE?

...BUT THIS
BOY CLAIMS
SOMEBODY
KILLED HIM.



YES...
HE
LOCKED
HIMSELF
IN...

IS
THIS
TRUE?

ON THE
SECOND
FLOOR OF
THE SAME
SHED?



WE'VE
GOT A
PROBLEM!

YEAH...
MIYUKI'S
CALLIN' THEM
RIGHT NOW.

DAKKA



WHAT
ARE YOU
GONNA DO
WITH HIS
CAMERA?

GO
RIGHT
AHEAD.

ROBERT,
YOU MIND IF
I BORROW
YER
CAMERA?



FOR
CRYIN'
OUT
LOUD!

WHAT?

THERE'S BEEN
A LANDSLIDE,
SO THE
POLICE CAN'T
COME UNTIL
TOMORROW!



RIGHT?

ME
AN' THE
OLD
MAN!



UH...
WHO
ELSE IS
THERE?

WHO'S
"WE"?

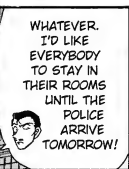


WE
CAN'T
WAIT
FOR
THE
COPS!

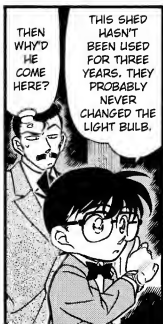
WE'RE GONNA
GO AHEAD
WITH THE
PRELIMINARY
INVESTIGATION!



DON'T
WANDER
OFF OR
MESS
WITH ANY-
THING!



WHATEVER.
I'D LIKE
EVERYBODY
TO STAY IN
THEIR ROOMS
UNTIL THE
POLICE
ARRIVE
TOMORROW!



THEN
WHY'D
HE
COME
HERE?

THIS SHED
HASN'T
BEEN USED
FOR THREE
YEARS. THEY
PROBABLY
NEVER
CHANGED THE
LIGHT BULB.



THE
LIGHT
WON'T
TURN
ON...

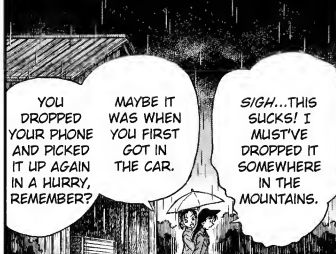
HUH?

KLIK
KLIK



WHOA...TALK
ABOUT A
SHOWY WAY
TO GO...





YOU
DROPPED
YOUR PHONE
AND PICKED
IT UP AGAIN
IN A HURRY,
REMEMBER?

MAYBE IT
WAS WHEN
YOU FIRST
GOT IN
THE CAR.

SIGH...THIS
SUCKS! I
MUST'VE
DROPPED IT
SOMEWHERE
IN THE
MOUNTAINS.



NO...
I DON'T
THINK
IT'S
HERE.

WELL?
DID YA
FIND IT?



YEAH
...

WAS
IT *THAT*
IMPORTANT
TO YOU?



...
THAT WAS
PROBABLY
WHEN IT
FELL OFF.
IT WAS
DARK.



HUH?

YOU GOT IT
FROM THE
FAMOUS
JIMMY,
RIGHT?



HE'S
NOT MY
BOY-
FRIEND,
OKAY?

IF I WAS
A GUY, I'D
WHISK YA
AWAY FROM
A COLD-
HEARTED
BOYFRIEND
LIKE THAT!



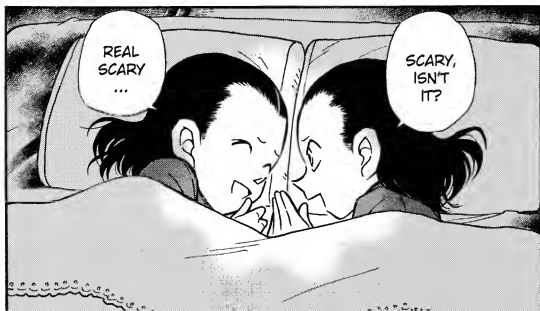
HE SOUNDS LIKE
A JERK! WHERE'S
HE GONE OFF TO,
WHEN HE'S GOT
A GIRL LIKE YOU
WAITIN' FOR
HIM AT HOME?



...

C'MON, IT'S
NO USE
HIDIN' IT! I
CAN TELL!





FILE 6:
HARLEY'S SHOUT





KAZUHA?

WHERE
ARE
YOU?



I FOUND
MY CELL
PHONE
STRAP!

IT WAS
STUCK
IN THE
LID OF
MY CD
PLAYER
...



SORRY,
KAZUHA!



TOK



KAZUHA?

KA...



KAZU-
HA'S
PEN-
LIGHT
...

OH...

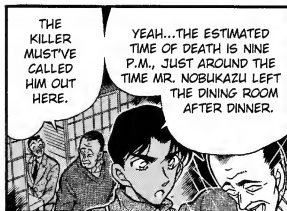


THEN THE KILLER HIT THE VICTIM FROM BEHIND BEFORE HANGING HIM.



WHAT?

THERE'S A WOUND ON THE BACK OF THE HEAD, LIKE HE WAS HIT WITH SOMETHIN'!

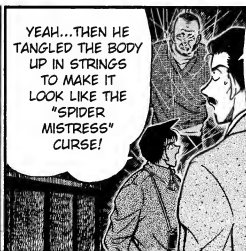


THE KILLER MUST'VE CALLED HIM OUT HERE.

YEAH...THE ESTIMATED TIME OF DEATH IS NINE P.M., JUST AROUND THE TIME MR. NOBUKAZU LEFT THE DINING ROOM AFTER DINNER.



BUT I STILL DON'T GET IT.



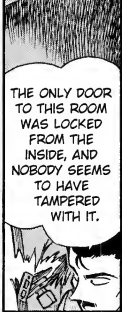
YEAH...THEN HE TANGLED THE BODY UP IN STRINGS TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE THE "SPIDER MISTRESS" CURSE!



WHEN MR. NOBUKAZU GOT HERE, THE KILLER KNOCKED HIM OUT FROM BEHIND, THEN HANGED HIM.



AND IT'S WEIRD THAT MR. NOBUKAZU'S SANDALS AND FLASHLIGHT WERE LEFT SCATTERED AROUND.



THE ONLY DOOR TO THIS ROOM WAS LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE, AND NOBODY SEEMS TO HAVE TAMPERED WITH IT.



...AFTER THE MURDER?



HOW DID THE KILLER ESCAPE...



RIGHT, KID?



THEY SAY THIS PLACE HASN'T BEEN USED FOR **THREE YEARS**, BUT THERE'S NO DUST ON THE FLOOR OR THE SHELVES.



WAIT...I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING ...



YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT? WAS IT LEFT OPEN FOR A REASON?



IT'S JUST ABOUT BIG ENOUGH FOR A KID TO GET THROUGH.



AND THAT LITTLE WINDOW.



YOU DUMB KID! THOSE TWO ARE SOUND ASLEEP IN THEIR ROOMS BY NOW!



AND KAZUHA, TOO.



HUH?



RACHEL'S VOICE JUST OUTSIDE THE WINDOW...



...JUST NOW.





SO YOU WERE FRIENDS WITH MISA TAKEDA, THE GIRL WHO DIED THREE YEARS AGO.



AH...



...AND MISA GOT ME A JOB HERE AS A HOUSE-KEEPER.



BUT I QUIT THE NURSIN' JOB 'CAUSE THE WORK-LOAD WAS SO TOUGH...

MISA WAS FIVE YEARS YOUNGER'N ME, BUT SHE WAS A REAL NICE GIRL, SO WE GOT TO BE FRIENDS.

WE WERE BOTH WORKIN' AS NURSES IN THE SAME HOSPITAL.



BUT WHY?

CONSIDER-ATE AND KIND...

A MIGHTY KIND GIRL, SHE WAS...



AFTER HE GOT BACK, HE JUST EXPLODED AT HIS WIFE.

ONE TIME, MISA'S DADDY, MR. NOBUKAZU, DROPPED BY THE HOSPITAL FOR SOME REASON.



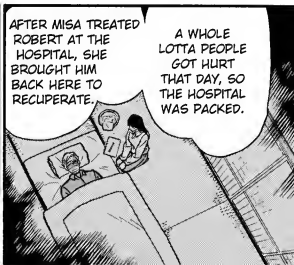
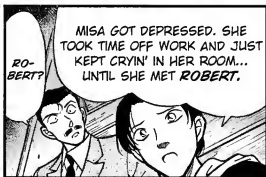
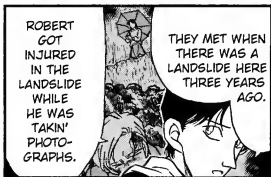
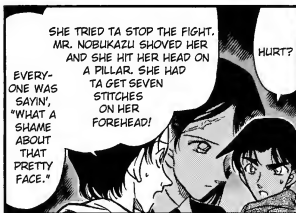
HUH?

MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE... WELL...



WHY WOULD A GIRL LIKE THAT COMMIT SUICIDE?





OR, "I'M ACTUALLY THE PRINCE OF A FAR-OFF LAND AND I'VE COME IN SEARCH OF A SHININ' BRIDE."

HE'D SAY, "I LOVE JAPANESE FOOD. ESPECIALLY THE MUD AND SAND AFTER THE RAIN."

AFTER ROBERT WAS ABLE TO TALK AGAIN, MISA SEEMED REAL HAPPY. I USED TA HEAR 'EM TALKIN' AND JOKIN' TOGETHER.

BY THE TIME ROBERT'S WOUNDS HEALED, HE'D GOT TA BE GOOD FRIENDS WITH THE FAMILY. RYUJI'S FAMILY CAME VISITING AND GOT TA KNOW HIM, AND MISA BRIGHTENED UP A LOT.

AT FIRST MR. NOBUKAZU DIDN'T LIKE HAVIN' ROBERT AROUND, BUT WHEN ROBERT TOLD HIM HE'D PAY FOR HIS KEEP, HE GOT REAL FRIENDLY.

WHEN SHE WENT MISSING, WE ALL THOUGHT SHE'D RUN AWAY FROM HOME.

I DUNNO WHY, BUT RIGHT AFTER HE LEFT, SHE GOT DEPRESSED AGAIN.

MISA COMMITTED SUICIDE JUST A COUPLE OF DAYS AFTER ROBERT LEFT, RIGHT?

THEN I DON'T GET IT.

BUT MA'AM NEVER DID WARM UP TO HIM. SHE DON'T CARE NONE FOR FURRINERS.

HUH?

BUT WE SURE HAD A LOTTA TROUBLE WITH MR. RYUJI...

HARD TA SAY. BUT MR. NOBUKAZU ATTENDED THE FUNERAL WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A TEAR IN HIS EYE.

HAS ANYBODY ACTED KINDA FUNNY SINCE THOSE DEATHS?

...HER MOTHER, MRS. KINUYO, HANGED HERSELF IN THE SAME PLACE.

JUST A FEW DAYS LATER ...

AND THEN, ONE DAY, MR. YUZO FOUND HER HANGED IN THE LOCKED SHED.



AH,
THE
TWIN.

AND THEN
THERE'S
SAE AND
EMI...



HIS WIFE, MRS.
YOKO, HAD A
HARD TIME
CALMIN' HIM
DOWN.

HE WAS
CRYIN' SO
LOUDLY,
EVEN THE
NEIGHBORS
COULD
HEAR
HIM.



...BUT TWO YEARS
AGO, WHEN THEY
CAME VISITIN',
THEY SUDDENLY
STARTED SAYIN'
SOMETHIN'
STRANGE.

THEY WAS
ALWAYS
REAL
FOND OF
ROBERT...



REAL
MEAN
...

HOW
MEAN
...

ROBERT
KILLED
MISA...

IT
WAS
ROBERT
...



DUNNO. MR.
NEGISHI
SAID THEY
JUST
ASKED
HIM HIS
NAME.

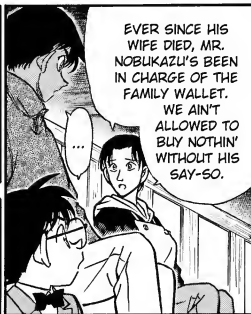
WHAT
DID
THEY
TALK
ABOUT?



THE GIRLS
STARTED
SAYIN' THAT
STUFF
AFTER
HAVIN'
A TALK
WITH MR.
NEGISHI.

YUP. MR.
NEGISHI WAS
SURPRISED TO
HEAR 'EM
CARRYIN' ON
LIKE THAT,
TOO.

BUT MISA
HANGED
HERSELF
AFTER
ROBERT
LEFT, RIGHT?





ROBERT COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT. HE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE BARN TO GET THE CAR, THEN LEFT WITH RACHEL AND KAZUHA.

EVERYBODY HAS AN ALIBI FOR THE TIME AFTER MR. NOBUKAZU LEFT THE LIVING ROOM.



...AND NOBODY BUILT LIKE HER COULD LIFT A FULL-GROWN MAN, ANYWAY.

YEAH, WE COULD HEAR HER CHANTING SUTRAS THE WHOLE TIME...

YOKO WAS TAKIN' A BATH WITH THE TWINS, THE HOUSEKEEPER WAS CLEANIN' THE LIVING ROOM WITH US, AND THE GRANDMA WAS IN HER ROOM. THEY'RE ALL CLEAN.



HAVE YA FIGURED OUT WHO DID IT?

NO... I CAN'T EVEN SOLVE THE LOCKED ROOM PROBLEM.



SOME-THIN' AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...

BUT SOME-THIN'S BUGGIN' ME.



...AND YUZO, WHO WAS WANDERING AROUND THE HOUSE LOOKING FOR NOBU-KAZU.

THE ONLY ONES WHO COULD'VE DONE IT WERE RYUJI, WHO WAS HEATIN' UP THE BATH...



...RIGHT?

THE STRING ...





KAZUHA
DIS-
APPEARED?



RACHEL?

RA...



LET'S
SPLIT
UP AND
LOOK
FOR
HER!!

IT'S MY
FAULT
THAT
KAZUHA...
KAZUHA...



I FOUND HER
PENLIGHT ON THE
GROUND. I KIND
OF PANICKED...
WHAT IF SHE'S
BEEN KIDNAPPED?

SAY
IT
AIN'T
SO!



SHREEE



SHRF

SHRF

KAZUHA
!!

HEY
!!



KAZUHA...
WHERE
ARE
YOU?





FILE 7: HARLEY'S ANGER





KA...

KAZU-
HA...



KAZU-
HA!!!

HEY,
KAZUHA!
WAKE
UP!!

KAZU-
HA!!



WH...
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO ME?

KAZUHA...
OH,
MAN...



HAR...

...LEY
...?



KAZUHA?
WHAT
THE...

YOU'RE
OKAY!
LEMME
CUT YOU
DOWN...

CHK
CHK



...AND
THEN I
BLACKED
OUT...

I WAS
WAITING
FOR
RACHEL
IN FRONT
OF THE
SHED...



I'M SO
SORRY...I
SHOULD'VE
BEEN
MORE
CAREFUL.

IT WAS
CAUGHT IN
THE LID OF
MY CD
PLAYER.

THEN...
YOUR
CELL
PHONE
STRAP...



I SHOULD'VE
LOOKED
AROUND
MORE
BEFORE
WE WENT
RUNNING
OUT...

I'M SO
SORRY!

DON'T
WORRY!
SHE WAS
JUST A
LITTLE
TIED UP!



UH-
HUH
...



DON'T
LOSE IT
AGAIN,
'KAY?

I'M
GLAD
YOU
FOUND
IT.



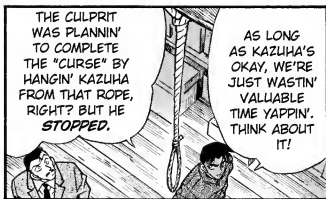
HEY...
WHERE
ARE
YOU
GOING?

LOOK
AFTER
KAZUHA,
'OLD
MAN.



YEAH,
I
KNOW.

HEY,
HARLEY
...



THE CULPRIT
WAS PLANNIN'
TO COMPLETE
THE "CURSE" BY
HANGIN' KAZUHA
FROM THAT ROPE,
RIGHT? BUT HE
STOPPED.

AS LONG
AS KAZUHA'S
OKAY, WE'RE
JUST WASTIN'
VALUABLE
TIME YAPPIN'.
THINK ABOUT
IT!



THAT
MEANS...
THE
KILLER
IS...

HE HEARD US
RUNNIN' UP
AND DECIDED
TO **HIDE** LIKE
THE COWARD
HE IS.



THERE'S ONLY
ONE REASON
FOR HIM TO
DO THAT.





WE WERE
STANDING
IN FRONT OF
THE ONLY
DOOR, AND
THERE'S
NOWHERE TO
HIDE DOWN-
STAIRS...

WEIRD...
IT'S BEEN
LESS THAN
THREE
MINUTES
SINCE WE
CAME IN.

HEY, DID
YA FIND
ANY-
THING?



THE ONLY
OTHER
EXIT IS
THAT TINY
WINDOW.

NO...
NOTHING
OVER
HERE...



NO...
BUT IT'S
THE ONLY
PLAUSIBLE
EXPLANA-
TION.

YA DON'T
THINK THERE'S
REALLY
A WAY TO
ESCAPE
OUT THAT
WINDOW,
DO YA?



...BUT
MAYBE
SHE'LL
REMEMBER
SOMETHING
WHEN SHE
WAKES UP.

KAZUHA'S
RESTIN'
IN HER
ROOM
NOW...

BEATS
ME!

WHO
DID IT?
AND
WHY?



WHAT?
THAT GIRL
FROM
OSAKA WAS
ATTACKED?



...AND
TO
CHECK
ALL OF
YOUR
ALIBIS.

AHEM...WE ASKED
EVERYONE TO GATHER
HERE TO PREVENT
ANOTHER MURDER...

LIKE
ONE OF
YOUR
FACES
...



I WAS
LOOKIN'
AROUND
OUTSIDE
THE
HOUSE.

AND YOU? I
DIDN'T SEE
YOU WHEN
WE WERE
LOOKING
FOR
KAZUHA...



I
WASN'T
ASLEEP,
THOUGH.

I WAS
IN MY
ROOM.

ME
TOO.



UNTIL
YOU
WOKE
US UP,
THAT IS.

AN ALIBI? BUT
WE WERE ALL
SLEEPING IN
OUR ROOMS.



HE MIGHT
BE IN HIS
WORKSHOP.

HEY,
WHERE'S
MR.
YUZO?



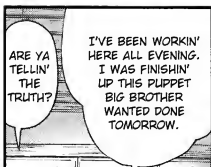
WELL...
NO...

IN OTHER
WORDS,
NOBODY
HAS AN
ALIBI.



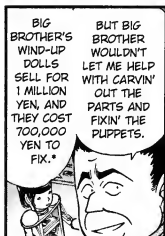
YEAH. THE COMPANY I WAS WORKIN' FOR WENT BELLY-UP THREE YEARS AGO, SO I CAME BACK TO THE OL' HOMESTEAD. BIG BROTHER SCHOOLED ME IN THE BASICS OF PUPPET MAKIN'.

YOU CAN BUILD PUPPETS TOO, HUH?



ARE YA TELLIN' THE TRUTH?

I'VE BEEN WORKIN' HERE ALL EVENING. I WAS FINISHIN' UP THIS PUPPET BIG BROTHER WANTED DONE TOMORROW.



BIG BROTHER'S WIND-UP DOLLS SELL FOR 1 MILLION YEN, AND THEY COST 700,000 YEN TO FIX.*

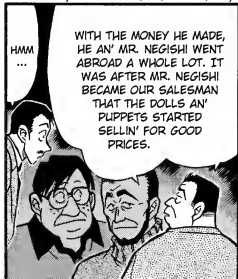
BUT BIG BROTHER WOULDN'T LET ME HELP WITH CARVIN' OUT THE PARTS AND FIXIN' THE PUPPETS.



YUP. I MOVED IN JUST AROUND THE TIME ROBERT LEFT!

THREE YEARS AGO... WHEN THE FIRST INCIDENT TOOK PLACE...

*One million yen is about \$9,000, and 700,000 yen is about \$6,000.



HMM ...

WITH THE MONEY HE MADE, HE AN' MR. NEGISHI WENT ABROAD A WHOLE LOT. IT WAS AFTER MR. NEGISHI BECAME OUR SALESMAN THAT THE DOLLS AN' PUPPETS STARTED SELLIN' FOR GOOD PRICES.

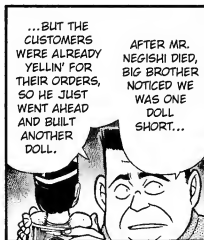


HE CHARGED EVEN MORE FOR THE STRING PUPPETS.

YEAH, I SAW SOME PEOPLE SEND IN THEIR DOLLS DOZENS OF TIMES.

DID PEOPLE EVER GO FOR THAT DEAL?

PRETTY STEEP PRICE FOR REPAIRS, HUH?





NOW WE
KNOW WHY
NOBUKAZU
HIRED A
PRIVATE
EYE TO
INVESTIGATE
THIS CASE,
INSTEAD OF
CALLING
THE COPS.

THE WIND-UP
PUPPETS ARE
CHEAPER
'CAUSE THEY
HOLD LESS
STASH!

CHK

POOF

...
DRUGS
!!!



WHAT
ELSE?

WHICH
NUMBER
DO YA
WANNA
START
WITH?



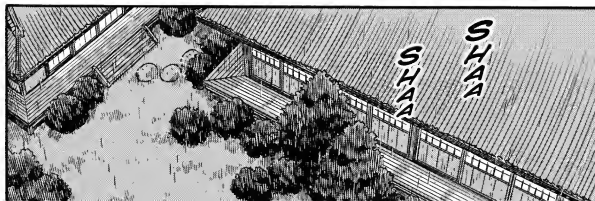
IT MUST
BE PEOPLE
CONNECTED
TO THE
DRUG
SMUGGLING
RING.

TAKE A LOOK
AT THIS! AN
ADDRESS
BOOK WITH
LOADS OF
PHONE
NUMBERS!



THE
HOSPITAL.

RIGHT...



SHAA

SHAA



HUH?

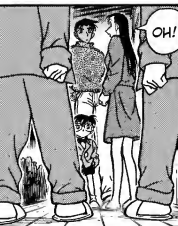
WHERE
ARE
YOU?

SAE!
EMI!



BUT I STILL
DON'T GET THAT
LOCKED-ROOM
ESCAPE OR
WHY THE
CULPRIT
ATTACKED
KAZUHA.

THINGS
ARE FINALLY
**CLEARING
UP.** NOW WE
KNOW HOW
THIS WHOLE
CASE
STARTED
THREE
YEARS
AGO.



OH!

I WAS TAKING
MY GIRLS TO
THE BATHROOM,
BUT THEY'VE
RUN OFF!

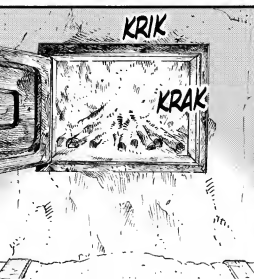
HEY,
WHAT'S
WRONG?



SOME-
THING
WEIRD!

BUT WE
SMELLED
SOMETHING!

DIDN'T I TELL
YOU TO WAIT
FOR ME ONCE
YOU WERE
DONE?



KRIK

KRAK



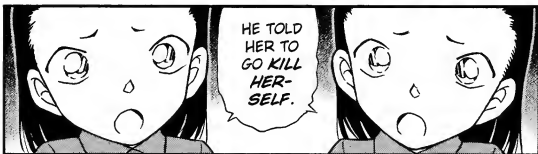
FUR-
NACE?

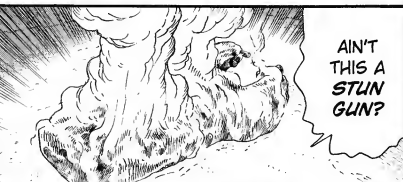
JUST
LIKE
GRANDMA
SAID...

ALL
BURNED
UP!

I BET
THE BABY
SPIDERS
ARE BEING
BURNED
IN THE
FURNACE
...

THAT'S
RIGHT!











THE
HOLE
LEFT
BY THE
THUMB-
TACK!!

FOUND IT,
HARLEY!



LOOKS LIKE
WE WERE
RIGHT AFTER
ALL.



I FOUND
SOMETHIN',
TOO! A FUNNY
STRING WITH
LOOPS ON
BOTH ENDS!



...WHO
THE
KILLER'S
GOT TO
BE!!!

YEAH.
AND
NOW WE
KNOW...

FILE 8: SPEECHLESS





HE'S ASKIN' EVERYBODY TO GATHER ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE SHED!

THAT'S RIGHT!

DID MR. MOORE REALLY SAY THAT?

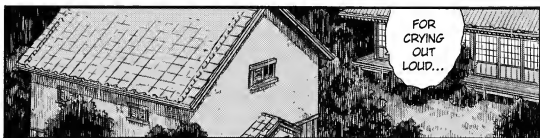


WHAT? HE KNOWS WHO THE KILLER IS?

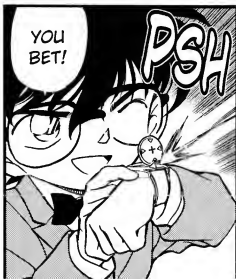


AND IT'D HELP A LOT IF YOU COULD GIVE US SOME GASOLINE ...

OH, AND HE WANTED TO BORROW THAT BIG PUPPET IN THE WORK-SHOP.



FOR CRYING OUT LOUD...



YOU BET!

PSH



YUP.

DID HE REALLY WANT ME TO WAIT HERE?

WHAT'S THAT PUNK THINKING? HE LOWERED THE BODY WITHOUT EVEN ASKING ME!





...WHEN
NOBUKAZU
WAS
KILLED!

...BECAUSE
HE
WASN'T
HERE...



THE
STRING
USED
FOR THE
PUPPETS.

HOW
COULD
HE...

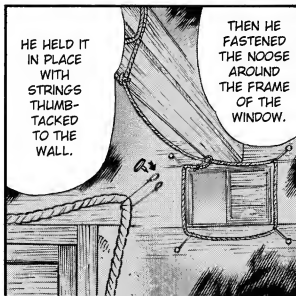


THAT
CAN'T
BE!



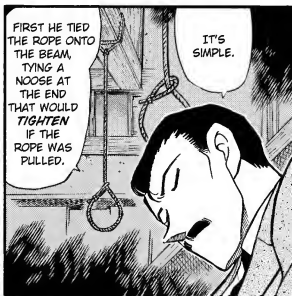
...TO
CREATE
THIS
LOCKED-
ROOM
MYSTERY.

THE
KILLER
USED
STRING,
ROPE AND
THUMB-
TACKS...



HE HELD IT
IN PLACE
WITH
STRINGS
THUMB-
TACKED
TO THE
WALL.

THEN HE
FASTENED
THE NOOSE
AROUND
THE FRAME
OF THE
WINDOW.



FIRST HE TIED
THE ROPE ONTO
THE BEAM,
TYING A
NOOSE AT
THE END
THAT WOULD
TIGHTEN
IF THE
ROPE WAS
PULLED.

IT'S
SIMPLE.

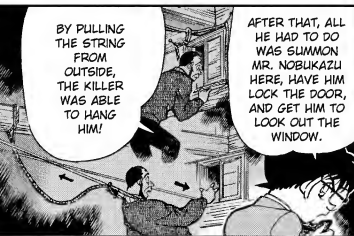


WHAT
THE
...

LIKE
THIS!

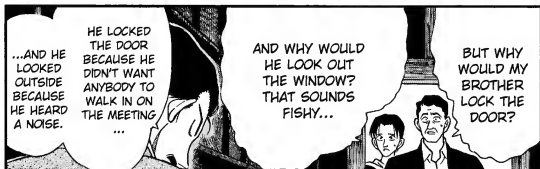
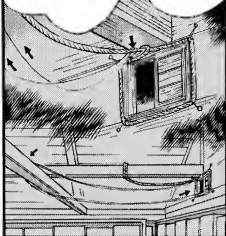
...WRAPPED
BOTH ENDS OF
THE STRING
AROUND THE
MAIN ROOF
BEAM, AND
PULLED
IT OUT
THROUGH
THE WINDOW!

THEN HE
ATTACHED
A LONG
STRING TO
THE
ROPE...



BY PULLING
THE STRING
FROM
OUTSIDE,
THE KILLER
WAS ABLE
TO HANG
HIM!

AFTER THAT, ALL
HE HAD TO DO
WAS SUMMON
MR. NOBUKAZU
HERE, HAVE HIM
LOCK THE DOOR,
AND GET HIM TO
LOOK OUT THE
WINDOW.

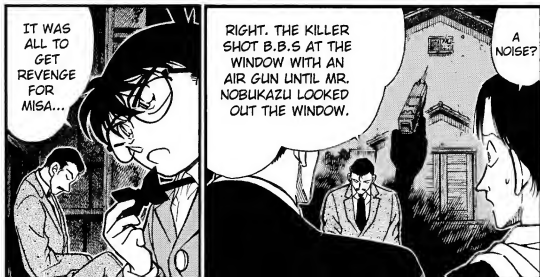


...AND HE
LOOKED
OUTSIDE
BECAUSE
HE HEARD
A NOISE.

HE LOCKED
THE DOOR
BECAUSE HE
DIDN'T WANT
ANYBODY TO
WALK IN ON
THE MEETING
...

AND WHY WOULD
HE LOOK OUT
THE WINDOW?
THAT SOUNDS
FISHY...

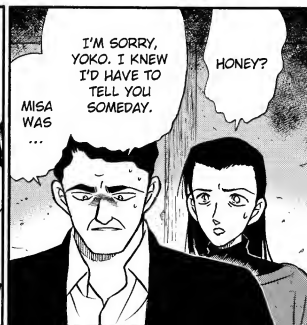
BUT WHY
WOULD MY
BROTHER
LOCK THE
DOOR?



IT WAS
ALL TO
GET
REVENGE
FOR MISA...

RIGHT. THE KILLER
SHOT B.B.S AT THE
WINDOW WITH AN
AIR GUN UNTIL MR.
NOBUKAZU LOOKED
OUT THE WINDOW.

A
NOISE?



WE ONLY SLEPT TOGETHER ONCE. NOBODY WOULD EVER HAVE FOUND OUT...BUT THREE YEARS AGO, A DOCTOR AT THE HOSPITAL LET THE TRUTH SLIP.

KINIYO FOUND OUT AT THE HOSPITAL THAT MY BROTHER WAS UNABLE TO HAVE CHILDREN. SHE CAME TO ME IN TEARS, ASKING IF I'D HELP HER FULFILL HIS DREAM OF BEING A FATHER.

IT'S THE TRUTH. IT HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO, BEFORE I EVEN MET YOU.

NO...NO! YOU'RE JOKING, AREN'T YOU?

THEIR NAMES.

WE NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS MISA'S FATHER?

HONEY...

I...I SHOULD NEVER HAVE DONE SUCH A THING...

MY BROTHER DROVE MISA TO SUICIDE, AND KINIYO FOLLOWED HER.

AND I HEARD YOU WERE INCONSOLABLE AT MISA'S AND KUNIYO'S FUNERALS...

I REALIZED THAT YOU'D SECRETLY LINKED THEIR NAMES.

Misa → Sae → Emi

IF YOU LINE UP MISA'S NAME ALONGSIDE THE NAMES OF YOUR DAUGHTERS SAE AND EMI, THEY MAKE A REPEATING PATTERN.

IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM YOUR FACES ON THE DAY KUNIYO CAME BACK FROM THE HOSPITAL WITH THE BABY!

HMPH! YOU THINK I'M A STUPID OLD WOMAN, DON'T YOU?

WHAT?

I KNEW IT ALL ALONG...SO I FIGGERED I'D LINK THEIR NAMES IN A CIRCLE FOR YOU.

WHAT? BUT MY MOTHER NAMED ALL MY DAUGHTERS!



I
DIDN'T
KILL
ANY-
ONE!

N...NO,
MOTHER!

I'M
SHOCKED!

AND
BLAMIN'
IT ON THE
SPIDER
MISTRESS!



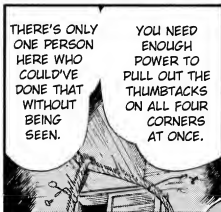
WHAT?

BUT I NEVER
REALIZED
YOU, THE
BABY OF
THE FAMILY,
WERE THE
ONE
AVENGIN'
MISA'S
DEATH!



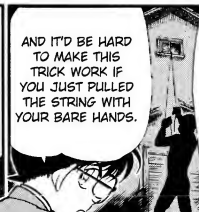
REMEMBER
WHAT I SAID?
THE KILLER SHOT
AT THE WINDOW
WITH AN AIR GUN
AND PULLED THE
STRING THE
MOMENT MR.
NOBUKAZU POKED
HIS HEAD OUT.

MR.
RYUJI
ISN'T
THE KILLER.

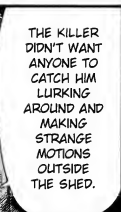


THERE'S ONLY
ONE PERSON
HERE WHO
COULD'VE
DONE THAT
WITHOUT
BEING
SEEN.

YOU NEED
ENOUGH
POWER TO
PULL OUT THE
THUMBTRACKS
ON ALL FOUR
CORNERS
AT ONCE.



AND IT'D BE HARD
TO MAKE THIS
TRICK WORK IF
YOU JUST PULLED
THE STRING WITH
YOUR BARE HANDS.



THE KILLER
DIDN'T WANT
ANYONE TO
CATCH HIM
LURKING
AROUND AND
MAKING
STRANGE
MOTIONS
OUTSIDE
THE SHED.



IT
WAS
YOU
...



THE ONE WHO
DROVE RACHEL
AND KAZUHA
AROUND IN HIS
TRUCK THAT
NIGHT.

FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT, YOU COULD SHOOT AT THE WINDOW OF THE SHED, MASKING THE SOUND OF GUNSHOTS WITH THE TRUCK'S ENGINE.

YOU PARKED THE TRUCK IN FRONT OF THE SHED AND WAITED FOR RACHEL AND KAZUHA TO JOIN YOU.

...ROBERT!!

WHEN YOU STOPPED TO ENJOY THE SCENERY, YOU HAD THE CHANCE TO GET RID OF THE STRING AND THE AIR GUN...

BEFORE DINNER, YOU'D TIED THE END OF THE STRING TO THE BACK OF THE TRUCK. ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS START THE TRUCK AND DRIVE OFF.

...BUT **ANYBODY** COULD'VE TIED A STRING TO IT!!

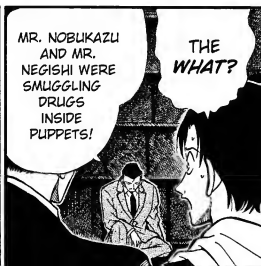
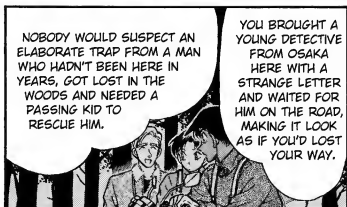
WAIT A MINUTE! SURE, I WAS THE ONE WHO DROVE THE CAR...

NO, THIS **WASN'T** YOUR FIRST TIME HERE IN THREE YEARS.

I WAS WITH YOU ALMOST CONSTANTLY UNTIL I WENT WITH THE GIRLS TO MISA'S GRAVE. I NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO SET UP SOME FANCY GIMMICK.

I'D EVEN FOR-GOTTEN THE WAY TO THE HOUSE!

ANYWAY, I JUST HAPPENED TO STOP IN FOR A VISIT AFTER THREE YEARS AWAY!





WHEN HE GOT THE CALL, HE HURRIED TO THE SHED TO MEET ROBERT, WALKING RIGHT INTO HIS TRAP.

MR. NOBUKAZU DIDN'T KNOW WHO THE THIEF WAS, BUT HE THOUGHT IT WAS A RELATIVE. THAT'S WHY HE HIRED ME TO INVESTIGATE HIS FAMILY.

AFTER ROBERT KILLED NEGISHI, I BELIEVE HE STOLE ONE OF THE PUPPETS AND USED IT TO GET NOBUKAZU TO COME TO THIS ROOM.



YOU HAVEN'T EXPLAINED HOW MR. NOBUKAZU WOUND UP TANGLED IN THOSE STRINGS!

AND YOU'VE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING!



COME ON! YOU'VE GOT NO PROOF!

ISN'T THAT RIGHT?



HE PROBABLY PHONED NOBUKAZU AND SAID SOMETHING LIKE, "I'M READY TO GO TO THE POLICE WITH THIS. WANT TO MAKE A DEAL?"





I PUT TOGETHER A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION FOR THAT.

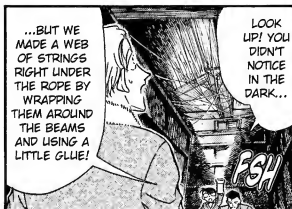
RIGHT, CONAN?

AH, RIGHT. I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE STRINGS ALL OVER MR. NOBUKAZU.



I'M READY!

HEY, OLD MAN!



...BUT WE MADE A WEB OF STRINGS RIGHT UNDER THE ROPE BY WRAPPING THEM AROUND THE BEAMS AND USING A LITTLE GLUE!

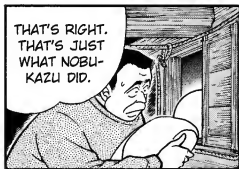
LOOK UP! YOU DIDN'T NOTICE IN THE DARK...

FSH



VROOOM

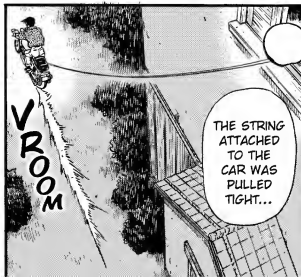
VROOOM



THAT'S RIGHT. THAT'S JUST WHAT NOBUKAZU DID.

MR. YUZO, COULD YOU POP THE DOLL'S HEAD OUT THE WINDOW?

BUT I GUESS SEEING IS BELIEVING.



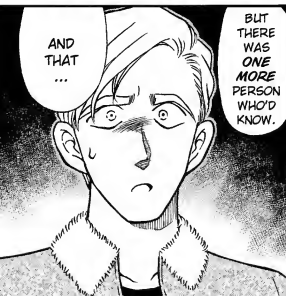
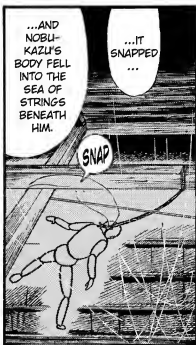
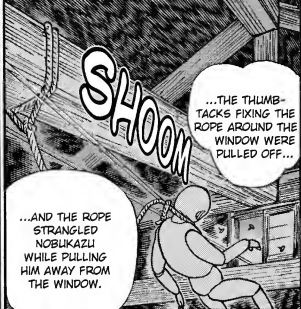
VROOOM

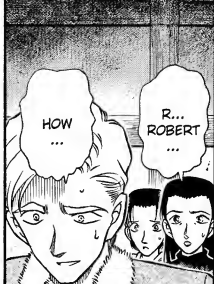
THE STRING ATTACHED TO THE CAR WAS PULLED TIGHT...



... ROBERT STARTED THE TRUCK.

WHEN HE SAW NOBUKAZU'S HEAD...





HOW
...

R...
ROBERT
...

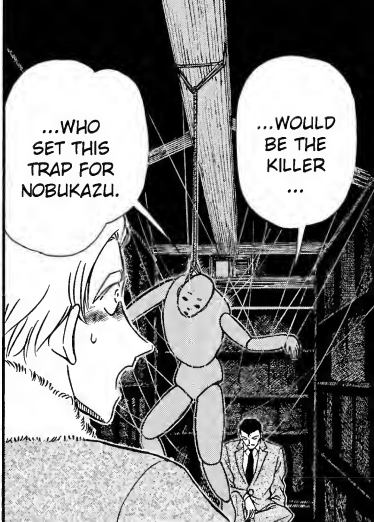
...WHO
SET THIS
TRAP FOR
NOBUKAZU.

...WOULD
BE THE
KILLER
...



YOU TOLD EVERY-
BODY TO KEEP IT A
SECRET AND WAITED
FOR ME TO SLIP
UP? HOW LONG
HAVE YOU
SUSPECTED
ME?

HOW
DID
YOU
KNOW?



I DIDN'T
NOTICE
'TIL I
COUNTED
UP THE
DISHES.

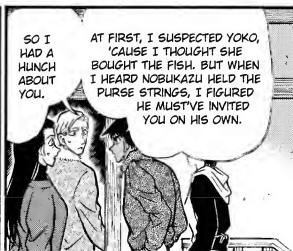
THAT MEANT
SOMEBODY AT
THIS HOUSE
EXPECTED
YOU FROM
THE START!

SINCE DINNER. THERE WERE
THREE UNEXPECTED GUESTS--
YOU, ME AND KAZUHA--
BUT WE WERE ONLY
SHORT **TWO** FISH.



THEN NOBUKAZU TURNED
UP DEAD, AND I FREAKED!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT
MAKE OFF WITH
KAZUHA
AND RACHEL!

BUT WHEN
NOTHIN' WENT
WRONG,
I LET
KAZUHA
GO OFF
WITH YA.



SO I
HAD A
HUNCH
ABOUT
YOU.

AT FIRST, I SUSPECTED YOKO,
'CAUSE I THOUGHT SHE
BOUGHT THE FISH. BUT WHEN
I HEARD NOBUKAZU HELD THE
PURSE STRINGS, I FIGURED
HE MUST'VE INVITED
YOU ON HIS OWN.



AND, OF
COURSE,
KAZUHA
FOUND
ONE OF
YER
B.B.S...

PLUS, YOU
WANTED TO
MAKE US
THINK THERE
WAS A WAY
TO ESCAPE
THAT
LOCKED
ROOM.

YA WANTED TO MAKE
US THINK WE WERE
DEALIN' WITH A SERIAL
KILLER OBSESSED WITH
THE CURSE...AND
DISTRACT US FROM
THE REAL CLUES,
LIKE THE FUNNY
STRINGS WITH LOOPS
MIXED UP WITH THE
OTHER STRINGS ON
THE GROUND.

YA KNOCKED
KAZUHA OUT
AND HUNG
HER IN THE
SHED, BUT
YA DIDN'T
KILL HER.



BUT HECK,
SHE
WASN'T
HIS REAL
DAUGHTER
...

NOBUKAZU
PRETTY
MUCH
MURDERED
HER.

MISA
HANGED
HERSELF
AFTER
YOU
LEFT.

A FEW
DAYS AGO,
WHEN I
VISITED
THE
HOUSE,
HE SAID
SOME-
THING.

BUT
WHY?
WHY
DID YOU
KILL MR.
NEGISHI?



I CAN STILL
SEE THE SMIRK
ON HIS UGLY,
TWISTED
FACE!



...AND
NOBODY'D
MARRY A
GIRL WITH A
SCARRED-UP
FACE LIKE
THAT. SHE'S
BETTER
OFF DEAD!



NOT THE
PEOPLE OF
THIS HOUSE
WHO DROVE
HER TO HER
DEATH, AND
NOT THEIR
LITTLE
FRIENDS
AND
FLUNKIES!

I DIDN'T
CARE WHO
GOT HURT
ANYMORE!

I GET YA...
BUT DON'T YA
THINK YOU
OVERDID
IT BY
ATTACKING
KAZUHA?



ALL I WANTED
WAS THE
CHANCE TO SEE
HER SHINING
SMILE AGAIN...
AND THEN...



I'D SPENT THE
LAST THREE YEARS
MASTERING
JAPANESE SO
I COULD BE
WITH HER!



...THE
REASON
SHE
KILLED
HER-
SELF...

MAYBE,
JUST
MAYBE
...



HARLEY,
DON'T!!



BACK WHEN
YOU AN'
MISA WERE
WRITIN' TO
EACH OTHER
IN ENGLISH,
SHE WAS
A LITTLE
UNSTABLE...
AN' HER
ENGLISH
WASN'T
THAT
GOOD.

I WASN'T
GONNA
SAY THIS...
BUT LEMME
TELL YA
SOMETHIN'.



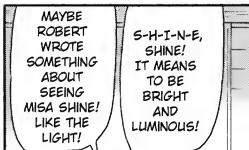
SHINE?



FOR
WHAT?

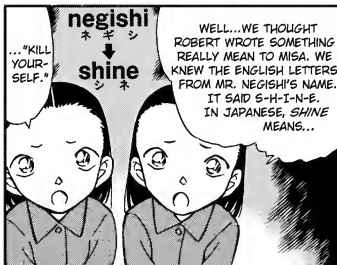
OOO...WE
SHOULD
TELL
HIM WE'RE
SORRY.

HEY...
ROBERT
USED TO
SAY STUFF
ABOUT
LOOKING
FOR A
SHINING
BRIDE.



MAYBE
ROBERT
WROTE
SOMETHING
ABOUT
SEEING
MISA SHINE!
LIKE THE
LIGHT!

S-H-I-N-E,
SHINE!
IT MEANS
TO BE
BRIGHT
AND
LUMINOUS!



..."KILL
YOUR-
SELF."

negishi
ネギシ
↓
shine
シネ

WELL...WE THOUGHT
ROBERT WROTE SOMETHING
REALLY MEAN TO MISA. WE
KNEW THE ENGLISH LETTERS
FROM MR. NEGISHI'S NAME.
IT SAID S-H-I-N-E.
IN JAPANESE, SHINE
MEANS...



LIGHT?



AT DAWN,
ROBERT WAS
ARRESTED BY
THE TOTTORI
POLICE.

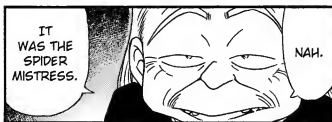
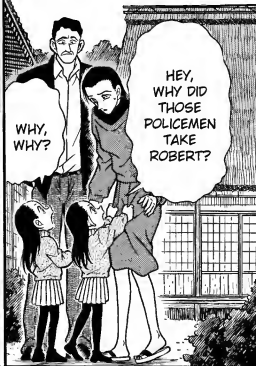
"WHY
WASN'T
SHE
BORN IN
AMERICA?"

"WHY
WASN'T
I BORN
JAPAN-
ESE?"

WE WERE
TOLD HE
JUST KEPT
REPEATING
THE SAME
WORDS...

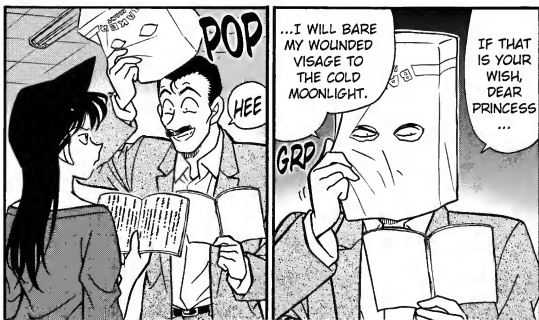
...OVER
AND
OVER
AGAIN...

...LIKE A
BROKEN
PUPPET...

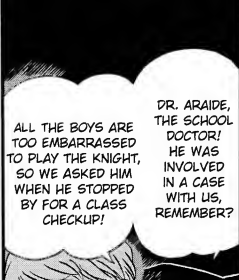


FILE 9: THE WOUNDED DETECTIVE LEAGUE









ALL THE BOYS ARE TOO EMBARRASSED TO PLAY THE KNIGHT, SO WE ASKED HIM WHEN HE STOPPED BY FOR A CLASS CHECKUP!

DR. ARAIDE, THE SCHOOL DOCTOR! HE WAS INVOLVED IN A CASE WITH US, REMEMBER?



RIGHT ON! THIS IS A BAD IDEA, RACHEL!!

I WON'T ALLOW THIS!

HE USED TO BE IN PLAYS WHEN HE WAS A STUDENT. HE'S SO GOOD! THE WAY HE READS THOSE LINES, YOU'D THINK HE WAS A REAL CHIVALROUS KNIGHT...



HMPH ...

OH...

SERENA'S GOING TO DRESS UP IN DRAG TO PLAY THE KNIGHT!

JUST KIDDING! HE'S ONLY DIRECTING THE PLAY!



IT'S CLOSED TODAY! AND SERENA'S PLACE IS TOO FAR ...

WHAT ABOUT THE BATHHOUSE DOWN THE STREET?

NUTS! I WANTED TO TAKE A BATH, TOO!



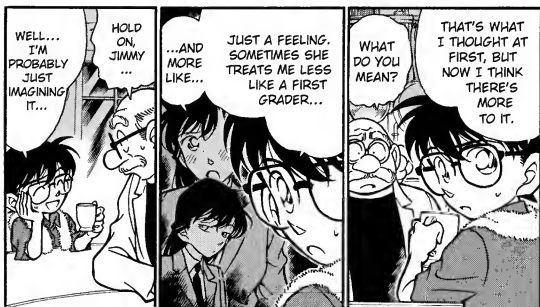
SKIP THE BATH. THE HOT WATER'S ON THE FRITZ.

I'D BETTER TAKE A BATH AND GET TO BED. KARATE PRACTICE TOMORROW...

GEEZ, IT'S LATE!



- DR. AGASA'S HOUSE -





THAT
SHE'S
FIGURED
OUT YOUR
TRUE
IDENTITY?



IT'S
RACHEL.
YOU
KNOW
HOW
SHE--



IF SHE DOES,
WOULDN'T SHE
WANT TO TALK
ABOUT IT?



YOU DON'T
REALLY THINK
SHE KNOWS,
DO YOU?



NO TIME TO CHAT,
BOYS. I'M GOING
TO BE BUSY IN
THE BASEMENT
UNTIL TOMORROW
MORNING.

ANITA?



ER... ANITA?
SHE'S IN
THE BASE-
MENT...



HEY, DOC,
WHERE'S THAT
LITTLE
GIRL WHO'S
STAYING
WITH YOU?



OOPS!

HOW I
WHAT?



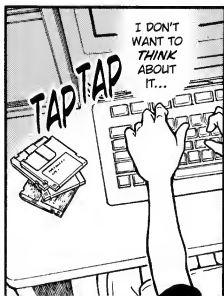
HELLO,
ANI...

CHAK



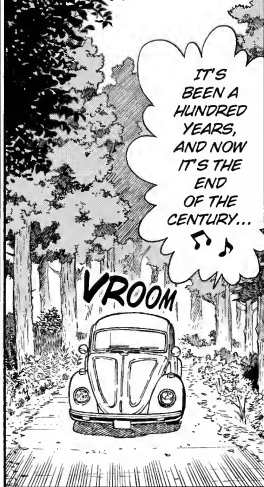
HEY,
WAIT!

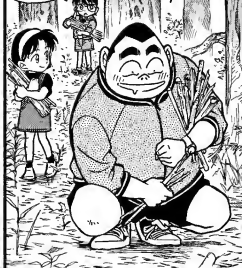
I'M GOING
TO GO
SAY HI.
♥





*This is one of the opening songs in the Japanese *Case Closed!* anime.







"...AND THE
LIGHT OF
BLISS WILL
SHINE UPON
YOU."

"STEP
FORWARD
INTO THE
PATH OF THE
DRAGON
..."



HUH?

SOME-
THING'S
WRITTEN
ON THIS
ROCK!

TAKE A
LOOK
AT THIS!



BLISS! IT
MEANS
"HAPPINESS"!

LIGHT
OF
WHAT?

THERE
USED TO
BE MORE
WRITING,
BUT IT'S
ERODED
AWAY.

MAYBE
IT'S
TALKING
ABOUT
..."



NOT
THAT
AGAIN
..."

...TREASURE!!



JUST
KIDDI...

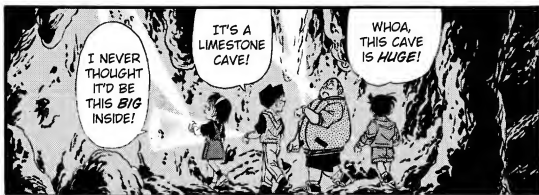


THE HIDDEN
TREASURES
OF THE
TOKUGAWA
SHOGUNS!



TOYAZ
TOFFEE
TOYS
..."

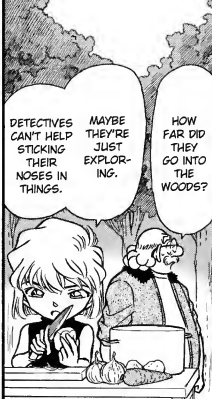
"TO" IS
WRITTEN
EXTRA-
LARGE.
COULD BE
A CLUE...





OF COURSE!

CAN YOU HELP ME WITH THE COOKING, DR. AGASA?



DETECTIVES CAN'T HELP STICKING THEIR NOSES IN THINGS.

MAYBE THEY'RE JUST EXPLORING.

HOW FAR DID THEY GO INTO THE WOODS?



THEY'RE LATE.



SOME-ONE'S IN HERE!

LOOK, A LIGHT!



THAT TREASURE OUGHTA BE...

NUTS...IF ONLY WE'D GOTTEN HERE EARLIER!

DAK DAK



WHAT? NO WAY!

MAYBE SOMEBODY FOUND THE TREASURE BEFORE US.

SOME-ONE WHO SMOKES ...



...OURS!

BAM







NAH, I
JUST
SAW
FOUR
KIDS...

WHAT IF THE
PARENTS
ARE HERE,
TOO?

SOME KIDS
SAW US!!

HEY,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

...AND RIGHT AFTER
WE ICE THE IDIOT TO
KEEP OURSELVES
SAFE, THOSE
BRATS
SHOW UP.

TALK ABOUT BUM
LUCK! WE ROB A
BANK AND ONE OF
OUR GUYS GETS
SPOTTED...





WHADDYA THINK,
EINSTEIN? WE'RE
GONNA PUT THEM
DOWN FOR
A NICE LONG
NAP IN THIS
DARK CAVE...

WHAT'RE
WE GONNA
DO WHEN
WE FIND
'EM?



THEY'VE
GOTTA
BE DOWN
HERE...

QUIT
YAKKIN'
AND FIND
THOSE
KIDS!



...WITH A
BULLET IN
EACH OF
THEIR LITTLE
SKULLS.



HEY, ANITA,
CAN YOU
HEAR ME?



I'LL LOOK
AROUND HERE A
LITTLE MORE...

YOU HEAD
FOR THE
ENTRANCE!
THEY
SHOULDN'T
BE HARD
TO CATCH!



FILE 10: THE TRUSTY SLEUTHS





NO...WAIT...
SOONER OR
LATER, DR.
AGASA AND
ANITA WILL
COME
LOOKING
FOR
US...

CONAN! WE'VE
GOTTA GET
OUT OF HERE
BEFORE THE
BAD GUYS
COME BACK!

DID YOU GET
HIT WHEN THAT
GUY SHOT
AT US?

WH...WHAT
HAPPENED?
THAT'S
BLOOD...

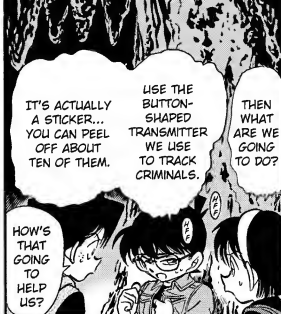


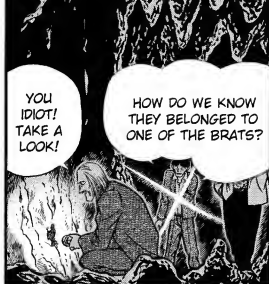
WE'VE GOT
TO CONTACT
THEM...
WARN THEM
AWAY...

IF THEY
ENTER THIS
CAVE, THEY'LL
BE KILLED!
WE...

OKAY!
BUT
HOW?







YOU
IDIOT!
TAKE A
LOOK!

HOW DO WE KNOW
THEY BELONGED TO
ONE OF THE BRATS?



GLAS-
SES?

I'M PRETTY
SURE THEY
WENT THIS
WAY...

GO IN
AND
FINISH
THE JOB,
JUST IN
CASE.



YEAH...
AND IT'S
STILL
WET...

IT'S
BLOOD!!
BLOOD?



THAT'S
RIGHT
...

I SEE...THEN
WE'LL HAVE
NO TROUBLE
CATCHING
UP TO 'EM.



HOLD
ON!

I'LL
SEARCH
THE
FOREST.



YOU'RE
RIGHT.

...DON'T
YOU THINK
THEY'RE
TAKING
TOO
LONG?



HEY
...

KAW
KAW





DON'T
BE SO
PESSI-
MISTIC...

HFF
HFF

THANKS TO YOU GUYS...
WE'VE COME ACROSS A
MURDER THAT COULD'VE
REMAINED UNSOLVED...



OKAY!

HFF
HFF

COME ON...
ONCE WE GET
AWAY FROM
THOSE GUYS,
IT'S BARBECUE
TIME... JUST
LOOK ON THE
BRIGHT SIDE.



COME
ON!
HURRY!

HUH?



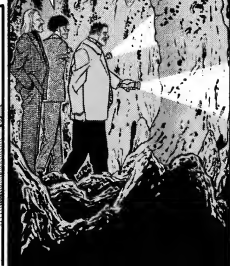
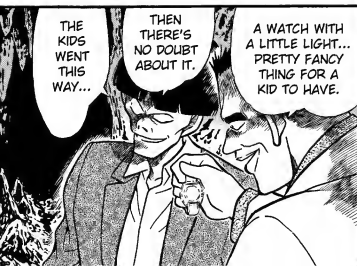
GEORGE...
LEND ME
YOUR
PENLIGHT
WATCH...

ROCK-
PAPER-
SCISSORS!



WHAT
DO WE
DO?

WHOA...
THE PATH
GOES
IN TWO
DIREC-
TIONS.





AND THE STRAP'S BUCKLED. IT DIDN'T JUST FALL OFF.

THINK ABOUT IT! EVEN A KID WOULD NOTICE IF HE DROPPED SOMETHING GLOWING LIKE THAT.



IT'S PROBABLY A TRAP.

WAIT!

WHAT?



...BUT THEY ACTUALLY TOOK THE OTHER PATH.

SO THEY'RE TRYIN' TO MAKE US THINK THEY WENT THAT WAY...



YEAH...I CAN'T WANT TO SEE THEM WET THEIR PANTS AND CRY FOR THEIR MOMMIES...

PRETTY SNEAKY...I CAN'T WAIT TO GET A LOAD OF THESE KIDS.

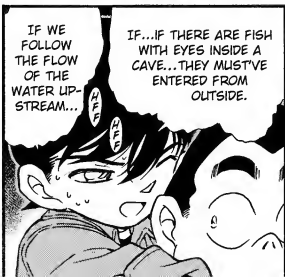
ROTTEN LITTLE BRATS.



HFF

HFF

HFF





THE KIDS
MUST'VE
GOTTEN LOST
IN HERE!

...
JIMMY'S,
RIGHT?



THESE
ARE...



WE'VE
GOT TO
FIND
THEM
RIGHT
AWAY!

BUT WHY
WOULD HE
DROP HIS
GLASSES?

DAK



HUH?



SOMETHING'S
BEEN
SCATTERED
AROUND
US.

HUH?

HOLD
ON.

BEEP



IT'S A
NUMBER
...



IF I
REDUCE
THE
RANGE OF
RECEPTION...

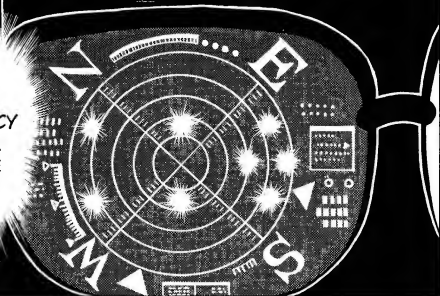


THEY'VE
BEEN
PLACED IN
FORMATION.

DON'T
TOUCH
IT!!

IT'S ONE
OF MY
TRANS-
MITTERS!

110! THE
EMERGENCY
NUMBER
FOR THE
POLICE!



HA
HA HA
HA...

THOSE BRATS!!
THEY TRICKED
US!!

IT'S A
DEAD
END!!

HEY,
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

THOSE
KIDS
ARE
DEAD
MEAT!!!

HURRY
BACK
AND
GET
THEM!!



OH,
COME
ON...

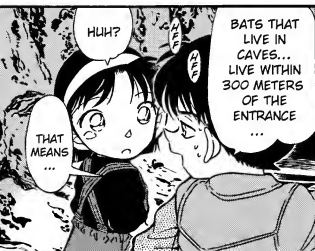
WHOA...
NO
WAY...















N...NO...WE
ONLY NEED TO
TRY ONE...

LET'S
CHECK EACH
PASSAGE,
STARTING
WITH
THIS
ONE!

HUH?



THOSE ENGRAV-
INGS...ARE TELLING
US HOW TO
GET OUT...
OF THE
CAVE...

HEE
HEE
...AND...
AND...THE
"LIGHT OF
BLISS"
IS THE
LIGHT AT
THE END
OF THE
TUNNEL...

TH...THE
ENGRAVING...
"THOSE LOST
IN DARKNESS"
...IT'S TALKING
ABOUT
THOSE WHO
HAVE GOTTEN
LOST...



HUH?



...AND TH...THE
WAY OF THE
DRAGON...IS...

TH...THE WAY OF
THE DRAGON...
IS THE EXIT...



SHOOT!
THEY'RE
AFTER
US!!

DAKKA

LOOK
AT ALL
THE
BLOOD!!

F...
FOOT-
STEPS!

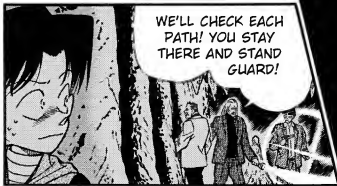
CONAN
!!



CALM DOWN!
ONE OF THE
BRATS IS
WOUNDED...
THEY WON'T
GET FAR.

NOW WHICH
WAY DID
THEY GO?

ZHK



WE'LL CHECK EACH
PATH! YOU STAY
THERE AND STAND
GUARD!



STOP FIGHTING!
IF WE DON'T
FIND THE WAY OF
THE DRAGON
CONAN WAS
TALKING ABOUT,
THEY'RE GOING
TO KILL US!

WHY NOT? I THOUGHT
IT'D BE THE WAY OUT, BUT
IT'S NOT EVEN A REAL
PASSAGE!

WHY'D
YOU PICK
THIS
WAY?



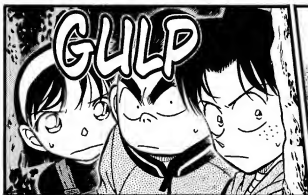
FOR
REAL.

FOR
REAL?

W...
WITHOUT
CONAN'S
HELP?

FILE II: ONE SURE THING



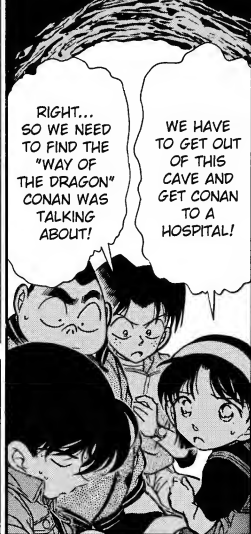


WE DON'T
HAVE
TIME TO
WAIT! HIS
FRIENDS
WILL BE
BACK
ANY
MINUTE!

IF ONLY
HE'D LEAVE
FOR A
BATHROOM
BREAK...

THAT
GUY'S NOT
MOVING
AT ALL.







WHY DIDN'T
YOU SAY
THAT
BEFORE?



HE'S
COMING
THIS
WAY!!!



OOPS
...









...AND MY MOM
AND EVERYBODY
LAUGHED AT ME,
SO I NEVER
FORGET HOW
TO SPELL IT!

ONE TIME, AT
A RESTAURANT,
I MISREAD
"FRIED
TAMAGO" AS
"FRIED TACO"...



DIFFERENT
SPELLINGS...
WAIT A
MINUTE!

DUH!

BUT TAMAGO
CAN BE
WRITTEN
DIFFERENT
WAYS,
CAN'T IT?



SILLY
GEORGE!
WHAT THE
HECK IS A
FRIED
TACO?

TA...
TAMA-
GO...



YOU KNOW,
JAPANESE
CHESS!

MAYBE THIS
IS ABOUT
SHOGI!



IT'S THE NAME
FOR A KING
PIECE IN A
SHOGI GAME!

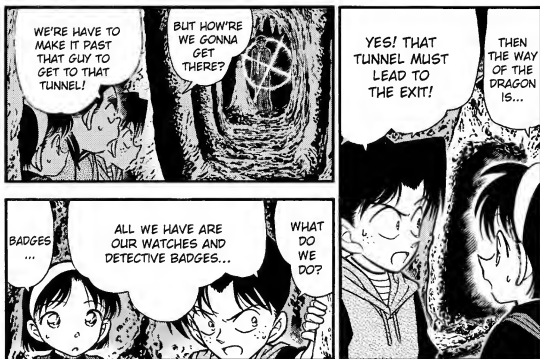
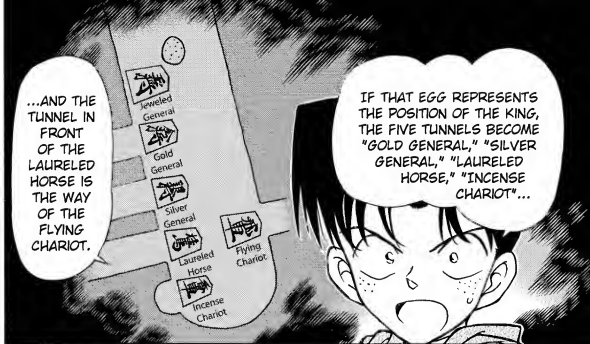
WHAT'S A
"JEWELLED
GENERAL"??



A SHOGI PAWN
IS CALLED A TO.
AND ONE OF THE
CHARACTERS
YOU CAN USE
TO SPELL
TAMAGO
LOOKS LIKE
THE FIRST
CHARACTER
IN "JEWELLED
GENERAL."

WHEN YOU
ADVANCE THE
"FLYING CHARIOT"
PIECE IN SHOGI,
IT BECOMES THE
"DRAGON KING."

HUH?







IT'S
THE
EXIT!!

IT...

BANG

TAKKA

GEORGE!!
NO!!

DAKKA

WAK

OR I'LL
BLOW THIS
KID'S
BRAINS
OUT!!

HURRY
UP!!

GET AWAY
FROM THE
EXIT AND
COME OVER
TO ME!

YOU
TWO!

FWASH



TCH
...



IF YOU
DON'T WANT
ME TO KILL
THIS KID,
LET ME...

YOU
IDIOT!
CAN'T YOU
SEE
ME?

YOU'RE
SURROUNDED!!
DROP THE
GUN AND
SURRENDER
NOW!!

THIS
IS THE
POLICE
!!!





...AND OUR SPELLINKING TRIP CAME TO AN END.

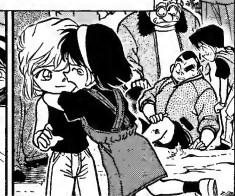
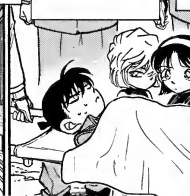
SO THE THREE BANK ROBBERS WERE CAPTURED...

ON MY WAY TO BAKER GENERAL HOSPITAL, I LISTENED TO THESE STORIES IN A DAZE...

THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE STRANGE RIDDLE HAD BEEN CARVED THERE AS LONG AS ANYONE COULD REMEMBER, BUT NO ONE KNEW WHO HAD LEFT IT.

THEY ASSUMED WE WERE MAKING OUR WAY OUT OF THE CAVE, AND HAD JUST REACHED THE EXIT AFTER ASKING A LOCAL FOR DIRECTIONS.

DR. AGASA AND ANITA HAD CALLED THE POLICE.





WELL,
NOT
QUITE
...

WASN'T IT
JUST A
SCRATCH
OR SOME-
THING?



HUH?

HE WAS
SHOT IN
THE GUT.



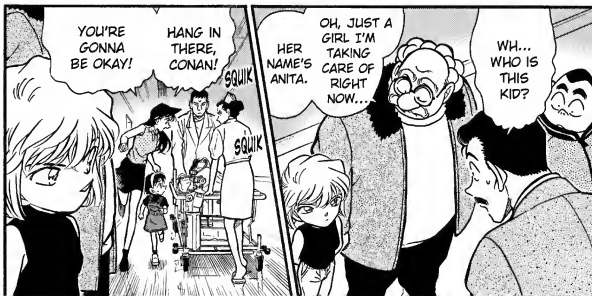
AN
OPERA-
TION?

WHAT?



THE BULLET WENT
RIGHT THROUGH
HIM, BUT HE'S LOST
A LOT OF BLOOD
AND THERE'S A
CHANCE THAT A
KIDNEY WAS NICKED.
IT DOESN'T LOOK
TOO GOOD
FOR HIM...

THE
BULLET
WOUND
IS IN HIS
LEFT
ABDOMEN.



YOU'RE
GONNA
BE OKAY!

HANG
IN
THERE,
CONAN!

SQUIK

HER
NAME'S
ANITA.

OH, JUST A
GIRL I'M
TAKING
CARE OF
RIGHT
NOW...

WH...
WHO IS
THIS
KID?





...I'VE
GOT THE
SAME
BLOOD
TYPE AS
HIM.



OPERATING



JIMMY...

Hello, Aoyama here.

Eva's pet cat appears on the November/December page of the 2000 *Conan* calendar! It's a Snowshoe cat, and its name is Goro. She claims that she named it Goro because it's lazy, but who knows? Ha ha...

*Editor's note: This is a pun on Detective Moore's Japanese name, Kogoro Mori, and the Japanese word *gorogoro*, meaning "to loaf around."





TORTOISESHELL HOLMES

So far we've talked about many kinds of detectives, but the one I'm introducing today isn't even human. She's Holmes, a tortoiseshell cat named after the most famous detective in the world! Holmes is a slender female cat with white, black and brown fur. Ever since her uterus was removed due to an illness, she often seems to be "lost in thought" over something...but even though she's a master sleuth, she's still a cat, so she can't explain her deductions or catch criminals on her own. So her owner, Detective Yoshitaro Katayama, cracks the cases for her. Detective Katayama is a tall, baby-faced man who can't hold his liquor, hates the sight of blood...and, to top it all off, is terrified of women. Not your typical heroic detective. Holmes's unusual behavior always gives him the decisive clue he needs to solve a case. Detective Katayama seems to have what it takes to become a great sleuth himself, but he always remains humble, claiming, "It was Holmes who cracked it." If only my Detective Moore were like him...I recommend the movie *Mikeneko Holmes no Suiri* (The Deductions of Tortoiseshell Holmes).